MONDAY
September 8, 2025

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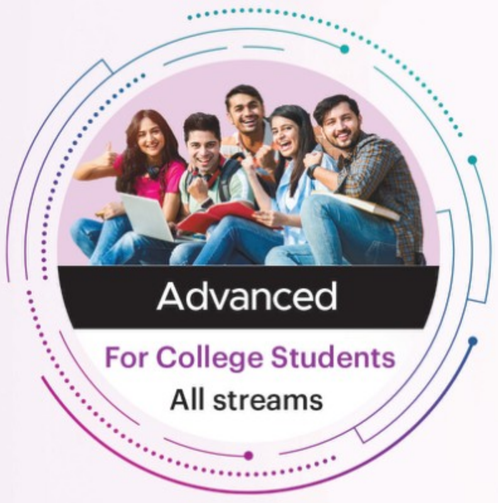

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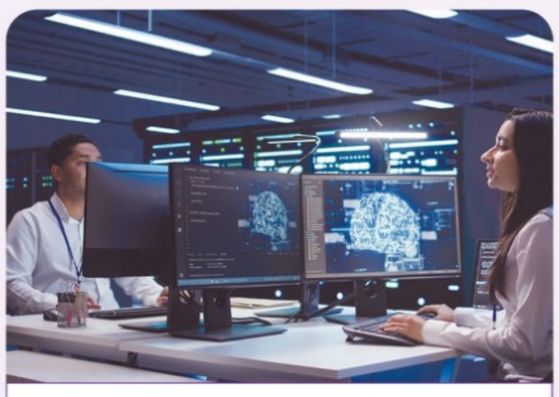

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'GOD'S INFLUENCER'

Carlo Acutis becomes first millennial saint

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FLAWED VENTURE

An ecological disaster in the making

Great Nicobar Project is a grave misadventure

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DOUBLE DELIGHT

India bags Asia Cup, books World Cup spot

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Ready for 'phase two' of sanctions on Russia: Trump

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he was ready to move to a second phase of sanctioning Russia, the closest he has come to suggesting he is on the verge of ramping up sanctions against Moscow or its oil buyers over the war in Ukraine.

He has repeatedly threatened Moscow with further sanctions but withheld them as he pursued peace talks. The latest comments suggest an increasingly aggressive posture, but Mr. Trump stopped short of saying what a second phase might entail.

Asked by a reporter at the White House if he is ready to move to "the second phase", Mr. Trump said, "Yeah, I am". He did not elaborate.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 12

Russia hits Kyiv in largest air attack; key building hit

Four killed, 44 wounded as 810 drones and decoys deployed to attack Ukraine capital; as many as 747 drones, four missiles shot down; building that came under attack housed Ukraine's Cabinet

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia hit Ukraine's capital with drones and missiles on Sunday in the largest aerial attack since the war began, killing four persons across the country and damaging a key government building.

Russia attacked with 810 drones and decoys, Ukraine's Air Force said, adding it shot down 747 drones and four missiles.

Plumes of smoke rose from the roof of Kyiv's government headquarters. It was not immediately clear if the smoke was the result of a direct hit or debris, which would mark an escalation in Russia's air campaign, which has so far spared government buildings in the city centre.

Capital threat: Smoke rises over a building of the Ukrainian government headquarters in Kyiv on Sunday. REUTERS

The building is the home of Ukraine's Cabinet and its Ministers. The police blocked access to the building as fire trucks and ambulances arrived.

Yuriy Ihnat, an Air Force spokesperson, confirmed that the attack was the largest Russian drone strike since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Russia also launched 13 missiles. Hits from nine missiles and 54 drones were recorded at 33 locations across Ukraine.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that he was counting on a strong U.S. response.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

B.R. Patil may move SC to ask EC to share data with investigators

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Senior Congress MLA from Aland in Kalaburagi district B.R. Patil, who first flagged the alleged voter fraud in his constituency ahead of Assembly elections in 2023, is mulling over approaching the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to share the technical data sought by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Karnataka, reportedly needed to unmask the culprits behind the fraud.

The EC not sharing this data yet has reportedly stalled the probe.

After *The Hindu* published a report on the alleged voter fraud on Sunday, Mr. Patil met All India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge in Kalaburagi, the home district to both leaders.

"I will further discuss with the party's central leadership and legal experts before taking the legal recourse," Mr. Patil told *The Hindu*, adding that getting to the bottom of the case will hopefully expose those behind a systematic attempt to "rig elections".

Kharge flays EC

Mr. Kharge later took to social media platform X questioning as to why "EC, which had earlier shared part of the documents needed to trace the forgery, has now stonewalled the crucial information – effectively shielding those behind vote chori".

"Is the Election Commission of India (ECI) now BJP's back-office for vote chori?" he asked and said: "Individual's right to vote needs to be protected. Indian democracy needs to be protected".

K. C. Venugopal, Congress general secretary (organisation), also took to X and said "EC blocking crucial documents .... once again proves their culpability in hiding crucial evidence that proves mass scale vote rigging". "For the EC to withhold evidence is against their constitutional responsibility of ensuring free and fair elections. They must ensure full transparency," he said.

In February, 2023, following a complaint by Mr. Patil, that votes were sought to be deleted using forged Form 7s, in the names of other voters of the consistency, with neither being aware of the same, an on ground verification revealed that of the 6,018 Form 7s, 5,994 were forged.

These forged applications were rejected and a FIR registered.

The CID, Karnataka probing the case, has made multiple requests to the Election Commission of India for destination IPs and destination ports of the sessions through which these forged applications were made, with no response yet.

'Sri Lankan Tamil refugees not eligible for long-term visas'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Undocumented Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who were exempted from penal provisions by a Union Home Ministry order last week are not eligible to apply for long-term visas (LTVs), a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

The official, however, did not elaborate on the reason for the ineligibility.

Though the order removes the tag of an "illegal migrant" from registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals who entered India before January 9, 2015, it will not immediately help in the grant of Indian citizenship.

The LTVs, a precursor to citizenship, are issued for a period of one to five years.

The official said that Sri Lankan Tamils are not eligible to apply for LTVs but foreigners can apply for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

On March 17, 2021, the Ministry informed the Rajya Sabha that "Any foreigner, including a Sri Lankan citizen, may acquire Indian citizenship by registration or naturalisation after fulfilling the eligibility criteria laid down in the Citizenship Act, 1955, and the rules made thereunder."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Blood moon

Sky show: The total lunar eclipse 2025 as seen in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

GST reforms will boost consumption: Minister

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed confidence that revenue buoyancy, driven by a spurt in consumption, will help bridge the estimated shortfall of ₹48,000 crore in GST revenues following a rationalisation of the tax rates, leaving no impact on public finances.

The rate rationalisation will definitely bolster GDP growth, the Finance Minister said.

In an interview, she said the consumption boost to be provided by the GST reform and the better-than-expected first quarter growth number might help the economy exceed the projected 6.3-6.8% pace of GDP growth in the current financial year.

Asked about the impact on fiscal deficit, Ms. Sitharaman said the ₹48,000-crore financial implication was a static number based on a base year, but when it got implemented, the base situation changed.

"So, I think the consumption spurt from September 22 will increase income buoyancy. To a large extent, this ₹48,000-crore amount we will be able to make it up this year itself. So I don't see an impact on my fiscal deficit or my fiscal management. I will stick to my numbers [4.4% of GDP]," Ms. Sitharaman said.

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NEARBY

Kharge welcomes return to ballot papers

KALABURAGI
Mallikarjun Kharge defended the government's decision to reintroduce ballot papers in local body elections, saying the Congress had been demanding it for a decade. » PAGE 4

Metro Pink Line to open by September 2026

BENGALURU
With Yellow Line finally welcoming passengers onboard, the next major focus is the Pink Line. BMRCL has confirmed that the corridor will be opened in two stages by September 2026. » PAGE 2

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 5

BMTC revises 3,000 bus schedules in city after increase in accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has revised the running time of nearly 3,000 of its daily schedules following a spate of fatal accidents involving its buses in the city. The move comes amid rising concerns over driver fatigue and mounting pressure on staff, after a sharp rise in accident numbers.

A senior BMTC officer explained that the decision was taken after assessing the growing challenges faced by drivers on city roads. "With Bengaluru witnessing a surge in private vehicles and worsening traffic congestion, drivers are already stretched. Ongoing construction, diversions, and poor road conditions further slow down bus movement. In many instances, a trip that once took an hour now takes almost one-and-a-half to two hours. By extending journey duration in the schedule itself, we hope to reduce the stress on drivers and improve passenger safety," the official said.

The decision was taken after assessing the growing challenges faced by drivers on city roads. K. MURALI KUMAR

A driver who wished to remain anonymous expressed concern over the impact of existing working hours. "Currently, many of us are forced to spend nearly 12 hours on the road to complete the assigned routes. The delays caused by traffic jams and diversions mean we rarely get adequate breaks. Even with the revised timings, the pressure is unlikely to ease unless the corporation reviews our overall working hours. Fatigue on the road directly affects our performance and safety," the driver said.

In 2020, BMTC replaced the earlier eight-hour duty shifts with extended 12-hour schedules, with only one rest period of three to four hours. "Drivers and conductors have been repeatedly demanded a rollback, warning that long hours not only reduce efficiency, but also put commuters at greater risk. Now, I hope this eight-hour shift might reduced our stress," a driver added.

Ishiba resigns as Japan PM after party's loss in July polls

Associated Press
TOKYO

Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced on Sunday that he will resign, following growing calls from within his party to take responsibility for a historic defeat in parliamentary election in July.

Mr. Ishiba, who took office in October, said he was stepping down as Prime Minister and as the head of his conservative Liberal Democratic Party.

Mr. Ishiba, a 68-year-old centrist, had resisted demands from opponents further to the right within his own party to resign. He argued that he wanted to avoid a political vacuum at a time when Japan faces key domestic and international challenges, including U.S. tariffs, rising prices and growing tensions in the Asia-Pacific.

Shigeru Ishiba

Mr. Ishiba explained at a press conference on Sunday night that he had intended for some time to take responsibility for his party's summer election loss, but was first determined to make progress in tariff negotiations with the United States. He described it as a matter of national interest.

"Who would seriously negotiate with a government whose leader says he is stepping down?" he said.

He said the moment had arrived with an order by U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday to lower tariffs on Japanese cars and other products from 25% to 15%.

The resignation came one day before Mr. Ishiba's party was to decide whether to hold an early leadership election, which would have amounted to a virtual no-confidence motion against him if approved.

Can India conquer the Emirates sans white-ball colossus Rohit?

The legendary opener has always had memorable sojourns at the desert land with a title-triumph in both the Champions Trophy and the Asia Cup in the past; it remains to be seen whether Suryakumar can emulate him

AFP

R. Kaushik
DUBAI

The last time India were in Dubai, in February-March, Rohit Sharma was still a two-format player internationally. The skipper led from the front in every way conceivable at the 50-over Champions Trophy, revived after eight years, with a flurry of PowerPlay boundaries on pitches where stroke-making became increasingly difficult once the two white balls got softer, to mastermind an unbeaten run that ended with a convincing defeat of New Zealand in the title round.

Having produced cameos throughout the competition, the Mumbaikar saved his best for last, unleashing his fury with the field restrictions in place before dialling down his aggression once the Kiwi spinners operated in tandem. He eventually lost patience during a particularly quiet passage of play, charging left-arm spinner Rachin Ravindra, attempting an uncharacteristically ugly swipe and being easily stumped for 76. By then, the captain had set the tone, though India still needed the composure and experience of their middle order – Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel, K.L. Rahul and Hardik Pandya – to coast to a four-wicket win with an entire over to spare. Rohit's impact on the title clash was cemented with the Player-of-the-Final award.

Less than three months after wrapping his hands around the Champions Trophy, Rohit bid adieu to Test cricket, in the middle of IPL 2025. Having already given up 20-over cricket internationally after the stirring World Cup triumph in Bridgetown in June last year, Rohit is now active as an India player only in the 50-over version. India haven't played a One-Day International since the Champions Trophy and for now, there is no indication - yet - that Rohit won't line up, as leader, when the team travels to Australia next month for three ODIs, to be followed by five T20Is. It's premature to say if that tour will be his swansong, no matter the chatter that indicates so. In any case, for the next six months at least, the longer white-ball iteration will only be an afterthought, what with the next T20 World Cup due to be staged in India and Sri Lanka in February-March.

That Rohit isn't leaving any stone unturned in his endeavour to be the best version of himself for the short tour Down Under and beyond is evident from the work he has put in when it comes to his body and his batting in the last few weeks. The 38-year-old arrived at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru last week looking leaner and fitter than in recent times and there was little evidence of rust having crept into his batting even though he hasn't played competitively since June 1. Rohit is hailed as one of the greatest limited-overs batters of all time with good reason. No one has scored more T20I centuries than him - he sits atop the pile alongside Glenn Maxwell with five hundreds - and he ranks third in the list of ODI centurions with 32 three-figure knocks, behind only compatriots Virat Kohli (51) and Sachin Tendulkar (49).

The 17th edition of the Asia Cup, which begins on Tuesday in Abu Dhabi with Afghanistan locking horns with Hong Kong, is the first continental or global white-ball tournament since Rohit's debut in 2007 at the inaugural T20 World Cup that India will be entering without the services of both Rohit and his predecessor, Kohli. In every World Cup or Asia Cup in either format, at least one of the two has kept the flag flying over the last 18 years. They haven't quite been missed in India's last five T20I series since their retirements (as well as that of Ravindra Jadeja). But whether Suryakumar Yadav's men are able to sustain their 20-over dominance will become apparent over the next three weeks when the defending Asia Cup champions will encounter stiff resistance from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, now more than a dark horse after having added batting brain and brawn to go with their wonderful bowling skills.

Rohit was a revelation once a stop-start white-ball career found a second win in January 2013, upon his elevation as opener in the 50-over game. In the middle order, he often walked in against a softer ball and struggled to make an impression with the field spread out. His talent was never in question, but he mainly flattered to deceive. Because there was a lacuna at the top following the retirement of Tendulkar and diminishing returns from Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir, Mahendra Singh Dhoni took a gamble by thrusting Rohit to the top of the tree in the home series against England. The rest, as they say, is history.

PTI

Rohit formed a spectacular combine with Shikhar Dhawan, the two complementing each other superbly and outdoing themselves in ICC events such as the World Cup and the Champions Trophy. It was inevitable that Rohit's great form of ODIs would spill over to the T20s as well; while the double-hundreds flowed in the former, there was no paucity of three-figure efforts in the latter, buttressing his reputation as one of the most prolific and dangerous white-ball openers in the history of the game.

When Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri reprised the Dhoni-Duncan Fletcher move of 2013 by promoting Rohit as Test opener in October 2019, the right-hander responded in like fashion, with twin hundreds in his first outing at the top against South Africa in Visakhapatnam just the first of many superb hands. Rohit didn't touch the same dizzying heights in Test cricket as he did in its two white-ball siblings, though he did sign off with an average of 40.57 which, without being standout, is hardly trifling (not to compare, but celebrated former England captain and opener Mike Atherton's Test average, after 115 matches, was 37.69 - just saying).

Rohit was on a sporting pilgrimage to England in the summer, watching the action at Wimbledon and dropping in for the third day's play in India's final Test against England at the Oval. Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrated his hero's presence with a special second hundred of the series that received a thumbs up from his former Test captain, but one look at him at the CoE was enough confirmation that Rohit isn't content with just being an onlooker.

There is some talk that Rohit and Kohli will be included in the India 'A' side to play three one-dayers against Australia 'A' in Kanpur between September 30 and October 5, as preparation for the ODIs in Australia. That won't be the worst idea; after all, neither virtuoso has played competitively since the first week of June and as anyone worth his salt will agree, no amount of batting in the nets, however intense, committed and smart, can replicate a game scenario.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has made a concerted effort to get its contracted players to play at the domestic level at every possible opportunity. By getting Rohit and Kohli to play for the 'A' side, the BCCI will achieve the twin objectives of giving their two most experienced batters the chance to ease themselves back into action and putting their money where their mouth is.

India can still eke plenty out of Rohit and Kohli in ODI cricket for the time being. But whether one or both of them will be seriously in their scheme of things for the next 50-over World Cup, which is two years away, is another matter altogether. Rohit will be 40-plus by then and Kohli will turn 39 midway through that African safari. India's immediate attention is on the T20 World Cup, with a title defence on the line. While broad plans are perhaps already in place as far as the longer World Cup is concerned, firmer contours won't appear until after March 2026, though anything that transpires between now and March should not come as a shock either.

It's impossible that the likes of Pandya and Axar, who were both influential forces like wrist-spinners Varun Chakaravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav, wouldn't have allowed their minds to go back six months and reflect on the glorious run at the Champions Trophy during their two practice sessions at the ICC Academy Oval on Friday and Saturday. Throughout the tournament, barbs were flung at the Indian team for no fault of theirs.

Decision-makers way above their pay grade ruled out India travelling to Pakistan for the tournament, which meant all of India's matches were played in Dubai. Because they had the luxury of staying put in one place for the entire duration of their campaign and were saved the hassle of packing and flying, they did enjoy some advantage, undoubtedly, but that's the hand one is sometimes dealt. India were by far the strongest team in the competition; there is a reason why, in the last three ICC tournaments, all under Rohit, India have lost just one match - the 50-over World Cup final to Australia in November 2023.

Rohit has a strong connect with the Emirates that extends beyond the Champions Trophy. Standing in for Kohli, he led India to the 50-over Asia Cup title in 2018 too but this time, he won't be around to marshall his side's fortunes. His humorous one-liners will be missed as much as his takedown of bowlers of all ilk and his shrewd, occasionally under-rated tactical acumen. But in Suryakumar, he has a worthy T20 successor who has assiduously learnt from watching the master at work and added his own unique sass to captaincy.

Rohit the batter was seldom weighed down by the cares of captaincy. Perhaps there isn't enough evidence to suggest that Suryakumar is feeling the burden yet, though the younger Mumbaikar will be well aware that his last eight T20I knocks have produced only 54 runs with a highest of 21.

Suryakumar knows he is far better than that, as do head coach Gautam Gambhir, chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and the rest of the cricketing world. Perhaps, that lean patch was the proverbial lull before the storm. Desert Storm, Part II, anyone?

THE GIST

- The Asia Cup is the first continental or global white-ball tournament since Rohit's debut in 2007 at the inaugural T20 World Cup that India will be entering without the services of both Rohit and his predecessor, Kohli.
- India can still eke plenty out of Rohit and Kohli in ODI cricket for the time being. But whether one or both of them will be seriously in their scheme of things for the next 50-over World Cup, which is two years away, is another matter altogether.
- Rohit has a strong connect with the Emirates that extends beyond the Champions Trophy. Standing in for Kohli, he led India to the 50-over Asia Cup title in 2018 but this time, he won't be around to marshall his side's fortunes.

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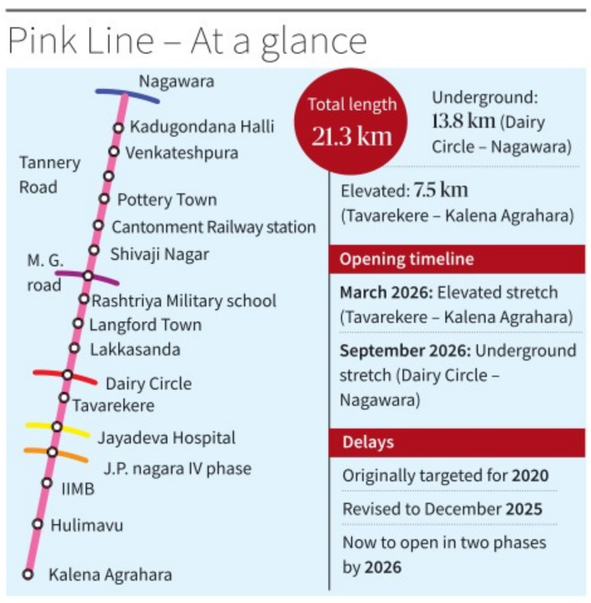
After Yellow Line, focus shifts to Pink Line of metro, set to open in two phases by 2026

Officials pointed out that civil construction has been completed for the elevated portion, while work on stations continues in the underground segment

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

With Namma Metro's Yellow Line finally welcoming passengers onboard in August, after a delay of nearly four years, the next major focus for Bengaluru's metro expansion is the Pink Line.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has confirmed that this highly-anticipated corridor will be opened in two stages by September 2026.



By March, 2026

According to BMRCL's schedule, the 7.5-km elevated section from Tavarekere to Kalena Agrahara, along Bannerghatta Road, is expected to be commissioned by March, 2026. The 13.76-km underground stretch, which will be Bengaluru's longest underground metro line, is slated for opening by September of the same year. This underground link will connect Dairy Circle to Nagawara, passing through central hubs such as M.G. Road, Shivajinagar, and Tannery Road.

A BMRCL official said, "Civil construction has been completed for the elevated portion, while work on stations continues in the underground segment. Track installation and system integration activities are underway across both sections."

Testing

A significant milestone was achieved in June when BMRCL carried out "third rail" testing between Jayadeva and Tavarekere stations on the elevated line as part of safety protocol. This crucial procedure involves energising the rail that powers metro trains and marks the beginning of a series of technical trials.

"We will subsequently conduct trials of the signalling network, assess telecommunications systems and carry out load tests to ensure the structures perform safely under operating conditions," a senior BMRCL official explained.

As other BMRCL projects the Pink Line project has seen multiple delays. Originally promised for 2020, its commissioning was first rescheduled to December, 2025. The BMRCL has now clarified that commuters will only be able to use the full corridor in 2026, though operations will begin in phases.

Tracking Namma Metro

The 21.3-km Pink Line forms part of Phase 2 of Namma Metro's expansion and is designed to link Kalena Agrahara in the south with Nagawara in the north, thus providing an important north-south connection. Of its total length, 13.8 km consists of underground tunnels, while 7.5 km is an elevated viaduct.

The tendering process for the elevated segment began back in 2017, but execution moved slowly owing to technical and logistical obstacles.

Officials admit that tunnelling has been the biggest challenge. "Bengaluru's subsoil composition is extremely difficult for tunnelling machines. We had to cut through vast granite formations and even harder dolerite boulders, which are denser and far more resistant to drilling," an official explained.

Toughest section

One of the toughest sections was the 2.2-km tunnel between Shivajinagar and Vellara Junction, where progress slowed considerably due to rocky terrain combined with densely populated neighbourhoods.

This particular stretch has often been blamed for pushing back deadlines multiple times.

However, BMRCL crossed a critical threshold in October, 2024, when it completed tunnelling across the entire underground section. Although the underground corridor spans 14 km, the tunnelling length came to 21 km, since twin tunnels had to be carved out to allow trains to run in both directions.

Civic chiefs launch citywide inspections on flooding and waste management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Commissioners of newly formed Bengaluru city corporations carried out a series of inspections on Sunday to address flooding, waste management, and public hygiene issues in different parts of the city.

In the North City Corporation limits, Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar inspected flood-prone areas in Yelahanka, including Kogilu Cross Junction, and directed officials to implement both temporary and permanent solutions.

He reviewed stormwater drain works at Kogilu Circle and instructed the creation of proper drainage at Ramanashree California Garden and Puttenahalli Lake. He also emphasised solid waste management and maintaining public amenities, while urging pourakarmikas in Yelahanka Satellite Town to prioritise cleanliness.

Additional Commissioner Latha R. inspected the Dasarahalli zone, directing the clearance of black spots, debris removal along M.S. Ramaiah Layout Main Road, and the reopening of a closed public toilet at MEI Colony Ground. She also heard grievances from residents.

In the South zone, Commissioner K.N. Ramesh reviewed the Ejipura secondary waste transfer station, which processes 160–170 tonnes of waste daily from eight wards. The facility uses seven "capsule vehicles" and an automated segregation unit, reducing landfill burden through scientific disposal. Ramesh stressed the need for similar facilities across all wards.

Meanwhile, in the East zone, Commissioner Ramesh D.S. led a crackdown on unauthorised stalls encroaching footpaths in Bellandur, clearing them with earthmovers. He also fined a restaurant ₹25,000 for poor hygiene. Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar inspected stormwater drains and flood-prone areas in K.R. Puram, ordering desilting, road repairs, and new public toilets at Tin Factory.

Officials reiterated that such inspections would continue and warned of strict action against violators.

Judge urges law graduates to be 'social engineers' to turn law into a tool for transformation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Your legacy won't be measured by your personal achievements alone – it will be defined by the opportunities you create for those who follow," said Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, while delivering the presidential address at the 33rd annual convocation of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU).

"Today, as you graduate, the question isn't whether you have learned the law. It's whether you are ready to reshape it, to bend the arc of justice toward the communities that need it most, and to transform legal practice from a mere career into a force for societal change," he remarked.

Students celebrating at 33rd Annual Convocation of National Law School of India University in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Invoking N.R. Madhava Menon, founding director of the NLSIU, Justice Kant exhorted the graduating class of 2025 to be 'social engineers' who would use law as an instrument of transformation.

"While you'll face hundreds of professional decisions, your success won't depend on getting all of them right. Instead, three specific moments will arrive quietly, almost unremarkably, yet they will define everything that follows. The first tests your ethical boundaries – will you compromise your values for advancement? The second challenges your definition of success – will you choose authenticity or expectation? The third questions your responsibility to others – will you lift others as you rise?" the Supreme Court Judge said.

Stressing the importance of integrity in the profession, Justice Kant emphasised that ethical courage is not a liability, but the greatest asset a lawyer can possess. "The profession offers numerous routes to meaningful success – find the one that genuinely drives you and aligns with your deepest sense of purpose," he said.

The convocation, held at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar School of Economics University Auditorium, saw a total of 1,557 students graduating. This included 287 graduates across the on-campus programmes and 1,270 off-campus graduates. The university awarded a total of 52 gold medals to 25 graduates.

Drug peddling network involving foreigners busted; two arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A drug-peddling network allegedly operated by foreigners across the city and its outskirts was busted by the Bengaluru police following the arrest of two women in Doddabettahalli, in the northeastern part of the city.

In July, Yelahanka New Town Police had arrested two foreign nationals while they were allegedly attempting to sell drugs. Investigations revealed that the suspects had several accomplices in Bengaluru who were sourcing drugs through wider networks and distributing them within their circles for peddling.

"We gathered information about as many friends of the arrested suspects as possible and identified those involved in drug peddling," an officer said.

The police launched an extensive operation at seven locations on September 3, resulting in the detention of nine foreigners. The raids were carried out in Varthur, Gunjur, Begur, Gandhipura near Whitefield, K.R. Puram, Ejipura, Sanjaynagar, and M.S. Palya.

During the searches, police seized 547 gm of cocaine, 43 gm of amphetamine, 40 gm of ganja, 201 gm of crystal (raw material), and ₹87,100 in cash from two houses occupied by women.

The accused have been identified as Benedicta, 24, and Priscilla, 28, both nationals of African countries, who were residing in Bengaluru for six months and two years, respectively.

According to police, Priscilla's visa had already expired, while Benedicta's visa status is yet to be confirmed. It was also found that the other seven detainees were overstaying their visas.

"We have written to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for their deportation. The FRRO will initiate proceedings," the officer said, adding that the two arrested women have been remanded in judicial custody.

The officer further stated that details of the property owners who rented out houses to these foreigners are also being collected.

IAA astronomers make breakthrough in understanding how cosmic dust grains line up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team of astronomers led by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and their collaborators have made a breakthrough in understanding how cosmic dust grains line up with the galaxy's magnetic field.

Dust grains, typically a few micrometers in size and composed primarily of silicates and carbonaceous material, are found throughout the interstellar medium in the Milky Way and other galaxies.

These tiny particles play a crucial role in a wide range of astrophysical processes, including the formation of stars and planets.

The Department of Science and Technology said that this breakthrough by the astronomers provides the strongest observational evidence yet for the long-theorised ways in which dust aligns itself with magnetic fields in our Galaxy.

They focused on the massive star-forming infrared dark cloud G34.43+0.24, located around 12,000 light-years away in the Milky Way.

Using the POL-2 polarimeter on the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawaii, the researchers mapped how dust in this star-forming nursery aligned with magnetic fields.

Observational evidence

The study found observational evidence for three different alignment mechanisms acting in a single cosmic cloud namely RAT-A, RAT-D and M-RAT.

RAT-A, implies RAdiative Torque Alignment in which non-spherical grains exposed to anisotropic radiation fields experience RAdiative Torques–RATs, that cause them to spin up and align with the direction of the surrounding magnetic fields.

Polarisation fraction

RAT-D is Radiative Torque Disruption in which large dust grains spin so rapidly under strong radiation from the massive and luminous protostars embedded inside the cores that they are disrupted into smaller fragments, reducing the grain alignment efficiency and thereby lowering the polarisation fraction.

M-RAT implies Magnetically-enhanced RAdiative Torque alignment mechanism in which alignment efficiency of grains is enhanced by strong magnetic relaxation strength of grains, resulting in higher polarization percentages.

Environment

"This shows that the grains respond differently depending on their environment–sometimes aligning perfectly, sometimes shattering under stress, and sometimes becoming super-efficient at tracing magnetic fields," the department said.

It added that by proving how these mechanisms play out in real space, astronomers now have stronger tools to map magnetic fields across the galaxy.

Fire accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A fire broke out at an oil manufacturing and processing plant on the southern outskirts of Bengaluru on Sunday, reducing products worth lakhs of rupees to ashes. No casualties were reported.

It is situated along the Chandapur-Dommasandra Road near Heelalige, close to Surya City. The fire was first noticed around 8.00 a.m. on Sunday.

According to a Fire Department official, they received information around 8.20 a.m., and eight fire tenders were immediately dispatched to the site.

"The factory contained a large quantity of inflammable materials, which caused the fire to spread rapidly," the official said.

Preliminary investigations suggest that a short circuit triggered the fire.

Job fair aimed at financial security and dignity for senior citizens

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"I've worked in marketing for paper and paper products for 35 years, and I retired six years ago, but with the loss of my child in the recent months, I am now looking at opportunities that help sustain my livelihood," said Jaganath Rao, a 66-year-old resident of Bengaluru, who was at a job fair for senior citizens here on Sunday.

Addressing the growing financial insecurity among India's elderly, Nightingale Empowerment Foundation and Nightingales Medical Trust (NMT) organised their 10th edition job fair for senior citizens at St. Joseph's University.

Senior citizens attend the Free job fair for senior citizens, organised by the Nightingale Empowerment Foundation, at St. Joseph's University, in Bengaluru on Sunday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The initiative, held in collaboration with St. Joseph's University and the Archdiocese of Bangalore, aims to connect older adults with employment opportunities that can provide both financial independence and dignity.

"One of the biggest challenges faced by elders in India is financial security. Of the nearly 15 crore senior citizens in India, about 75% are financially dependent and are often deprived of a life of dignity. At the same time, seniors between 60 and 70 years remain physically fit, skilled, and motivated to work, but struggle to find suitable job chances," said S. Premkumar Raja, co-founder and honorary secretary of NMT.

Seniors praise

"I was an administrator at a private bank for 13 years, and I retired at 58. With a year break due to my surgery, getting back to the workforce posed a problem, and this is a great platform for people like me to connect and network," remarked Mary Regina.

Radha S. Murthy, co-founder and managing trustee of NMT, added, "A considerable setback is the current unreliable job market. With the younger generation navigating the employment sector, seniors are often overlooked, but there is a need for experienced intellect that the companies should perceive."

Susheela, an employer from an insurance company, stated, "We've collaborated with NMT for three years now and hired numerous senior employees. With increasing participants over the years, we always look forward to having experienced candidates on our team."

"The senior employees hired at our company experience no deviations in their salary; they are paid in line with the market demands, along with benefits like PF and insurance. They're our fixed assets working across departments, including finance, supply chain, the audit team, warehouse, and also in cash sectors," added Sandesh, HR at Hatti Kaapi.

Addressing the tangible outcomes, Pradeep Murthy, Director of Operations of NMT, stated, "Over the past nine editions of this job fair, over 8,500 job seekers have been registered, there has been involvement of more than 450 companies, and around 4,000 senior citizens have been placed, with 80% of them being retained in the first three months."

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PERSONAL

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CIRCULAR / NOTICE
ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING - 2024 -25
KIND ATTENTION TO MEMBERS

We are glad to invite you for the 10th **Annual General Meeting** of the members of **JEEVAN JYOTI CREDIT COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.,** will be held on **Thursday 25th September 2025 at 9.00 a.m. at Malabar Marina Convention Centre, Cheruvennur, Calicut Rd, Madhura Bazar, Road, Kozhikode, Kerala 673655.**

For transacting following business, your presence therefore is highly solicited.

Agenda of the Meeting:

1. To confirm the minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2025.
2. To consider and accept - Annual Report for the year 2024-2025. To study and review real and proper utilization of funds and other funds during the year 2024-2025.
3. Based on Board of Directors proposal to study and approve the profit for the financial year 2024-2025.
4. Any other particulars and subjects with the permission of Board of Directors.

Date: 2nd September 2025
Thanks and Regards
Guru Vasudevan, CEO

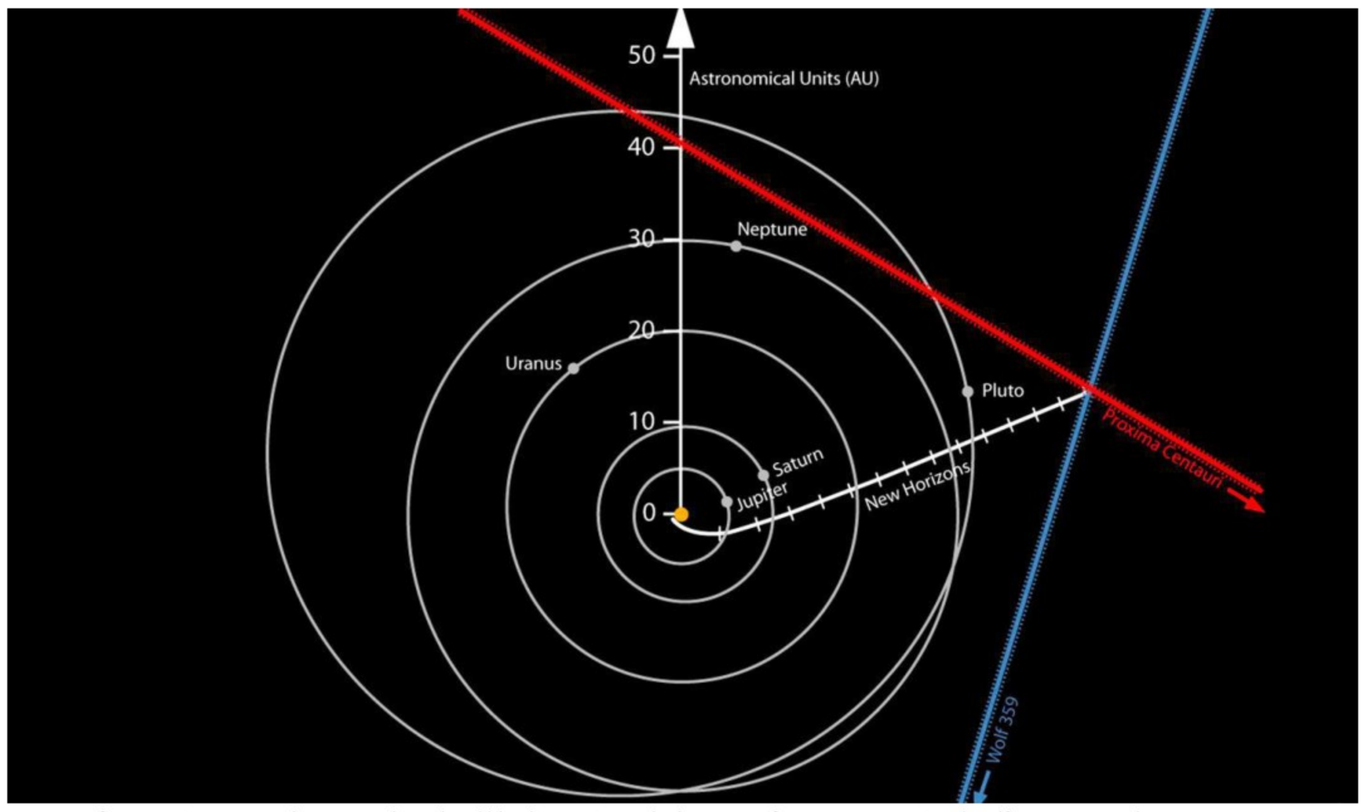
Lost in space? You might need just two stars to find your way

As the earth orbits the sun, a star's position relative to other stars might seem to shift; this is called stellar parallax. This phenomenon happens because every six months, the earth is on opposite sides of the sun, providing two different viewpoints; you can achieve the same effect by looking at a candle with one eye at a time

Shreejaya Karantha

If you're lost somewhere on the earth, you can use GPS or public landmarks to find your way back. Navigation in the vastness of space isn't so easy, however – especially if you're on a spacecraft racing billions of kilometres away from the earth. There is no GPS in space, and where a landmark is depends on where you're looking from.

But recently, astronomers found that a deceptively simple trick could help the New Horizons spacecraft find its way through space using only two stars.



Location of New Horizons on April 23, 2020. The red and blue lines point to the locations of Proxima Centauri and Wolf 359 respectively. NEW HORIZONS/NASA

'Navigation is essential'

NASA launched New Horizons in 2006 to explore Pluto, its moons, and, later, objects in the Kuiper Belt, a disc of icy rocks and dust in the outer edge of the solar system. New Horizons flew by Pluto in 2015, beaming back stunning images of the dwarf planet and its moons. In 2024, the spacecraft went beyond 60x the sun-earth distance, a new record.

"Navigation is essential, just as it is on the earth," Max Planck Institute for Astronomy staff member Coryn Bailer-Jones said. "Spacecraft have to know where they are and where they are heading for many reasons" – from planning their fuel use to pointing their antennae to send data back home.

Interplanetary missions like New Horizons are tracked by NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN), a global array of giant radio antennae that send and receive signals from spacecraft. This system is precise but always earth-centred, i.e., the spacecraft's location is measured relative to our planet. As spacecraft travel farther, signals between ground stations and the spacecraft drop, increasing communication time and decreasing signal strength. Therefore spacecraft that can find their way without asking for directions from the earth will be at an advantage.

The new study proposes a simple way to do this using stellar parallax, the same method early astronomers used to measure stars' distances from the earth.

The findings were published in *The Astronomical Journal* in June.

One eye at a time

As the earth orbits the sun, a star's position relative to other stars might seem to shift. This is called stellar parallax.

This is because every six months, the earth is on opposite sides of the sun, providing two different viewpoints. You can achieve the same effect by looking at a candle first with only your left eye and then only your right eye: the candle will change position against the background.

The amount of shift is called the parallax angle, and it's directly related to the distance to the star.

In the study, the astronomers observed two stars from the earth using New Horizons' instruments. They're like two eyes that were 7 billion km apart on April 23, 2020, when the team made the observations.

The two stars were Proxima Centauri and Wolf 359, located 4.2 light-years and 7.9 light-years away from the earth, respectively.

"We wanted large parallaxes, which means using the closest stars," U.S. National Science Foundation National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory astronomer and the study's lead author Tod Lauer said.

"Proxima Centauri is the closest star besides the sun. Wolf 359 is in the top five. We also needed stars that were not too bright for the camera. Wolf 359 was ... optimal for navigation, as it's close to 90° away from Proxima."

Self-sufficient

For the study's purposes, the European Space Agency's Gaia spacecraft played a vital role: it provided the 3D positions of stars in a fixed, universal reference frame.

With these reference positions, the team measured how much the stars' positions changed against the background by comparing their positions from New Horizons' vantage point with those from the earth.

The parallax was 32.4 arcseconds for Proxima and 15.7 arcseconds for Wolf 359 at the time of measurement. (An arcsecond is equal to 1/3600th of a degree.)

> All it needs is a camera, a standard spacecraft computer, and a catalogue for reference positions on any spacecraft
>
> **TOD LAUER**
> U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION NATIONAL OPTICAL-INFRARED ASTRONOMY RESEARCH LABORATORY

This calculation indicated that New Horizons was positioned at 46.89-times the earth-sun distance – close to the 47.11 AU estimated by radio-tracking measurements from the earth.

The technique could be the simplest way to navigate spacecraft because it doesn't require special equipment, Mr. Lauer said.

"All it needs is a camera, a standard spacecraft computer, and a catalogue for reference positions on any spacecraft."

The team wrote in its paper that its demonstration was "educational," not yet ready for practical use.

"We can't improve [the accuracy] that much with New Horizons, but a better camera on another spacecraft would help," Mr. Lauer said.

Stars as compass

The "study is a good one and a nice demonstration," Mr. Bailer-Jones, who wasn't involved in the study, said. "As they themselves note, it is not of practical use to navigate New Horizons, because we can still use earth-based beacons for this [distance]."

"But for much deeper space missions, such as interstellar travel, where beacons are no longer usable, an extension of this method becomes very useful."

He also said an existing method called stellar astrometric navigation also uses stars as well as accounts for the effects of special relativity to estimate a spacecraft's 3D position and velocity by measuring the angular separation between two stars in the sky. The new study has proposed a simpler version of this method, he added.

Mr. Bailer-Jones also said researchers are investigating another method called pulsar navigation, which uses rapidly spinning neutron stars like lamps in space to show the way.

"It's potentially much more accurate than stellar astrometric navigation, but it needs reasonable knowledge of the initial position, which the stellar astrometric navigation could supply," he said.

Mr. Lauer said he grew up watching *Star Trek* and that in one scene, he noticed the stars appeared to move as a spacecraft found its way through deep space. Did the show's producers know they were being accurate, or had they simply missed a detail? The new method has rendered this question irrelevant.

(Shreejaya Karantha is a freelance science writer. shreejayakaranth@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Interplanetary missions are monitored by radio antennae. This system is earth-centred. As spacecraft travel farther, communication time increases and signal strength decreases. Therefore, spacecraft need to navigate without asking for directions from the earth

The parallax was 32.4 arcseconds for Proxima Centauri and 15.7 for Wolf 359. This indicated that New Horizons was at 46.89-times the earth-sun distance — close to the 47.11 AU estimated by radio-tracking. This could be the simplest way to navigate spacecraft because it doesn't require special equipment

Scientists say the method is not of practical use to navigate New Horizons, because we can still use earth-based beacons for the distance involved. But for much deeper missions, such as interstellar travel, an extension of this method becomes very useful

BIG SHOT

The Webb Space Telescope captured stars forming in clouds of dust and gas (gold and orange) in a star-forming region called Pismis 24. While these clouds trap visible light within, the stars shine through the nebula in the infrared. In the centre is Pismis 24-1, an object known to be at least two stars. These are some of the most massive and luminous stars ever seen. NASA

WHAT IS IT?

Parrondo's paradox

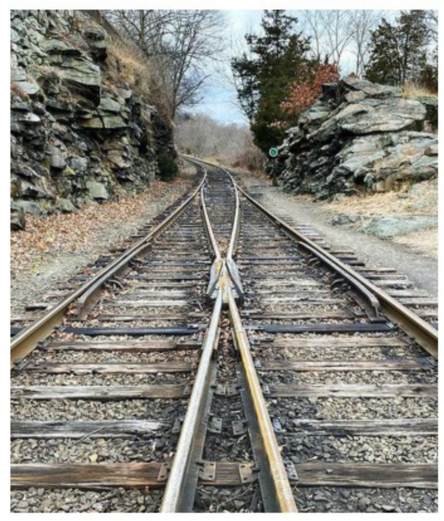
Vasudevan Mukunth

Parrondo's paradox is a strange idea from game theory (and before that from physics). It shows that when two losing strategies are alternated in a particular sequence, the outcome can be a winning strategy.

A common way to picture this is with coin-tossing games: even if each game individually drains your money by stacking the odds against you, switching between them at specific intervals can allow your fortune to grow instead of shrink. The paradox has become a useful tool across science to explain how mixing two bad options can create a better result.

In cancer therapy, for example, doctors often use two main chemotherapy schedules. The maximum tolerated dose (MTD) blasts tumours with high doses of drugs at spaced intervals. While powerful at first, MTD tends to leave behind resistant cancer cells that eventually take over. The low-dose metronomic (LDM) schedule delivers smaller, continuous doses. But if the dose is too weak, sensitive cells escape control, and if it is too strong, resistant cells dominate.

A study published in *Physical Review E* in August 2025 tested what happens when MTD and LDM are alternated rather than applied alone. Using mathematical models and computer simulations, researchers found that cycling between MTD and LDM could delay the rise of resistant cells and preserve healthy cells longer. In effect, the strategy — which still needs to be tested in a real-world setting — achieves what neither one could do so alone: more effective long-term control. This is a weak form of Parrondo's paradox.



The paradox has become a useful tool across science to explain how merging two bad options can create a better result. LANCE GRANDAHL/UNSPLASH

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Senior annual athletics meet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 167th Senior Annual Athletic Meet of the St. Joseph's Boys' High School was held on Saturday. The opening ceremony was attended by IPS officer M.N. Anucheth, Old Boy, 2000 batch, while the closing ceremony was attended by Hakimuddin Shabbir Habibullah, Olympian, Old Boy, 1995 batch. The guest of honour was Fr. Michael John, former principal of SJBHS.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 08
RISE 06:09 SET 18:26
RISE 18:56 SET 06:26

TUESDAY, SEP. 09
RISE 06:09 SET 18:25
RISE 19:39 SET 07:22

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 10
RISE 06:09 SET 18:24
RISE 20:23 SET 08:19

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	25
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Karnataka Police gear up to fill large vacancies over the next two years

With the internal reservation matrix approved by the State Cabinet last week, the State police to restart recruitment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The scam in the recruitment of 545 police sub-inspectors (PSIs) in 2022, which had the Police Recruitment Cell including its chief, allegedly involved, and the internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) had hit police recruitments in the State, leading to a large vacancy – pegged at 17,862 (over 15%) of the sanctioned strength of over 1.17 lakh – in the State police force.

This was revealed in the data presented by Home Minister G. Parameshwara, in response to a question raised by Shivamogga MLA Channabasappa in the Assembly during the recently concluded session of the State legislature.

With large vacancies in the constabulary (15,769), the strength of the boots on the ground has been compromised, and the issue was flagged at the Annual IPS Officers' Meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in June.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the government will approve proposals submitted by the State police for recruitment once the internal reservation for SCs is decided.

With the internal reservation matrix approved by the State Cabinet last week, the State police is gearing up to restart recruitment and has charted out a plan to ensure that, over the next two years, the police will be back in full force in the State.

"The State Cabinet has approved the internal reservation matrix, and the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) has notified the revised roster. We can now go ahead and start our recruitment process," said a senior official involved in the process.

Recruitment approved by the State government, held up due to Internal Reservation Issue

Post	Number
Detective Sub Inspector	20
Police Sub Inspector (Civil)	600
Armed Police Constable (CAR/DAR)	1,023
Armed Police Constable (KSRP)	1,862
Police Constable (KSISF)	376
Police Constable and Police Sub Inspector (sports quota)	104
Total	3,985

Proposal for recruitment submitted by the Karnataka State Police

Post	Number
Assistant Director (technical)	2
Lab Assistants	45
Civil Police Constable	5,600
Reserve Police Force Constable	1,600
Police Constable (KSISF)	1,29
Followers	900
Total	8,276

Last year

Over the last year, before the State government imposed a freeze on recruitment due to the internal reservation issue, the State police had recruited 6,022 personnel, including 947 PSIs (including the 2022 batch of 545 PSIs whose recruitment was marred by allegations of malpractice), and 5,075 constables. Most of these have completed their training and are joining service, providing a breather to the stretched-thin force.

State govt. nod

The State government has given its approval for the recruitment of an additional 3,985 personnel, which will commence immediately after the DPAR notifies the new roster. It will likely take six to eight months from the date the Karnataka State Police (KSP) issues a call for these posts to the completion of the selection process, a senior official said. After selection, these candidates will undergo intensive training for nine months before joining the force.

Meanwhile, KSP has also submitted a proposal to the State government to recruit 8,276 more personnel, which is pending approval.

"We have a capacity to train 5,000 personnel at once, which can be doubled by establishing temporary training centres in all the districts, which we have done before. Once the next batch of 3,985 personnel is selected and enters training, if the State government green-lights the next batch of 8,276, we can complete their selection by the time the previous batch completes training. That way, in two years and two batches, we would have filled most of the backlog vacancies in the State police," a senior police official involved in the process said.

The State police has to submit its proposed calendar for recruitment exams to the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) to ensure it doesn't clash with other recruitment exams.

Additionally, for several batches now, the number of aspirants taking the exams is over 1.5 lakh, which means that all schools and colleges need to be used as exam centres, resulting in these exams being conducted during the holiday season.

Prajwal assigned library clerk duties in prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prajwal Revanna, former Janata Dal (Secular) MP from Hassan who was convicted in a rape case last month, has been assigned the duty of a library clerk at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

A source in the Prison Department confirmed to *The Hindu* that Prajwal has been working in the prison library for the past five days. Prajwal, the grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, has been assisting with maintaining book records and handling clerical tasks in the central prison library.

According to the prison manual, he falls under the unskilled labourer category and was given the option of working in the bakery, carpentry, gardening, animal husbandry, or crafts. He was assigned library work earlier this week. He currently receives around ₹520 per day, with the amount set to increase over time.

Last year, three rape cases and one sexual harassment case were registered against Prajwal in different police stations across Karnataka. A SIT headed by B.K. Singh investigated the charges and filed chargesheets.

In July, the trial in one of the cases, involving a 48-year-old former house help, was completed. The Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against MPs and MLAs convicted Prajwal, sentencing him to imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life. The victim in this case had worked as house help at the Revanna family farmhouse in Gannikada, Hassan.

Following his conviction, Prajwal was shifted from a high-security cell to the convicts' section of Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. He was issued the inmate uniform, carrying the number 15528.

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Two college students drown in lake in Bengaluru South district

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two college students from Bengaluru drowned in a lake under Ramanagara Rural Police Station limits on Sunday, the police said.

The deceased have been identified as Nishanth, 20, and Siddarth, 21, both Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) students at a private college in Bengaluru. Preliminary investigation revealed that six friends had arrived in Bengaluru South district (formerly known as Ramanagara) in an SUV on Sunday and spent the day roaming around the area. Around 4.20 p.m., they visited Averahalli Lake and began playing near the waterbody, a senior police officer said.

"Nishanth, who did not know how to swim, slipped and fell into the lake. Siddarth entered the water to rescue him, but both drowned," the officer explained.

Their friends immediately called for help. While one body was recovered quickly, the second took nearly two hours to retrieve.

THE HINDU GROUP

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Detained South Korean workers in the U.S. to be released

300 Seoul said that negotiations with the U.S. to secure the release of South Korean workers detained by U.S. immigration officials have been "concluded" and they would soon be freed. The workers were arrested at a Hyundai-LG battery plant in Georgia. AFP

Haryana farmers who registered for crop damage claims

1.69 In lakh. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said a total of 1.69 lakh farmers have registered on a web portal to claim damages for losing crops in the State. The portal facilitates farmers who wish to register claims for crop damage caused by waterlogging. PTI

Number of custodial deaths in Rajasthan in the last two years

20 The report, which was submitted in the State assembly in response to a query by Congress MLA Rafeek Khan, said 12 of the deaths were linked to health issues, including six from heart attacks. Of the 20 cases, inquiries in 13 are still pending. PTI

Number of candidates who took the SSC exam in West Bengal

3.19 In lakh. SSC's School Level Selection Test was held at 636 centres across the State. This was the first teacher recruitment exam conducted by the West Bengal School Service Commission since the Supreme Court scrapped over 26,000 jobs in government-run schools in April. PTI

Number of arrests made at the London Palestine Action Rally

425 Hundreds gathered at Parliament Square to oppose the group's proscription by the U.K. government, holding placards such as "I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action" in protest over the Israel-Hamas conflict. PTI

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India-China: the inability to define a border

By the early 90s, India and China had come to the conclusion that only a peaceful and mutually acceptable settlement would resolve the border issue. However, with both sides being unwilling or unable to clearly define the LAC, the border remains indeterminate

WORLD INSIGHT

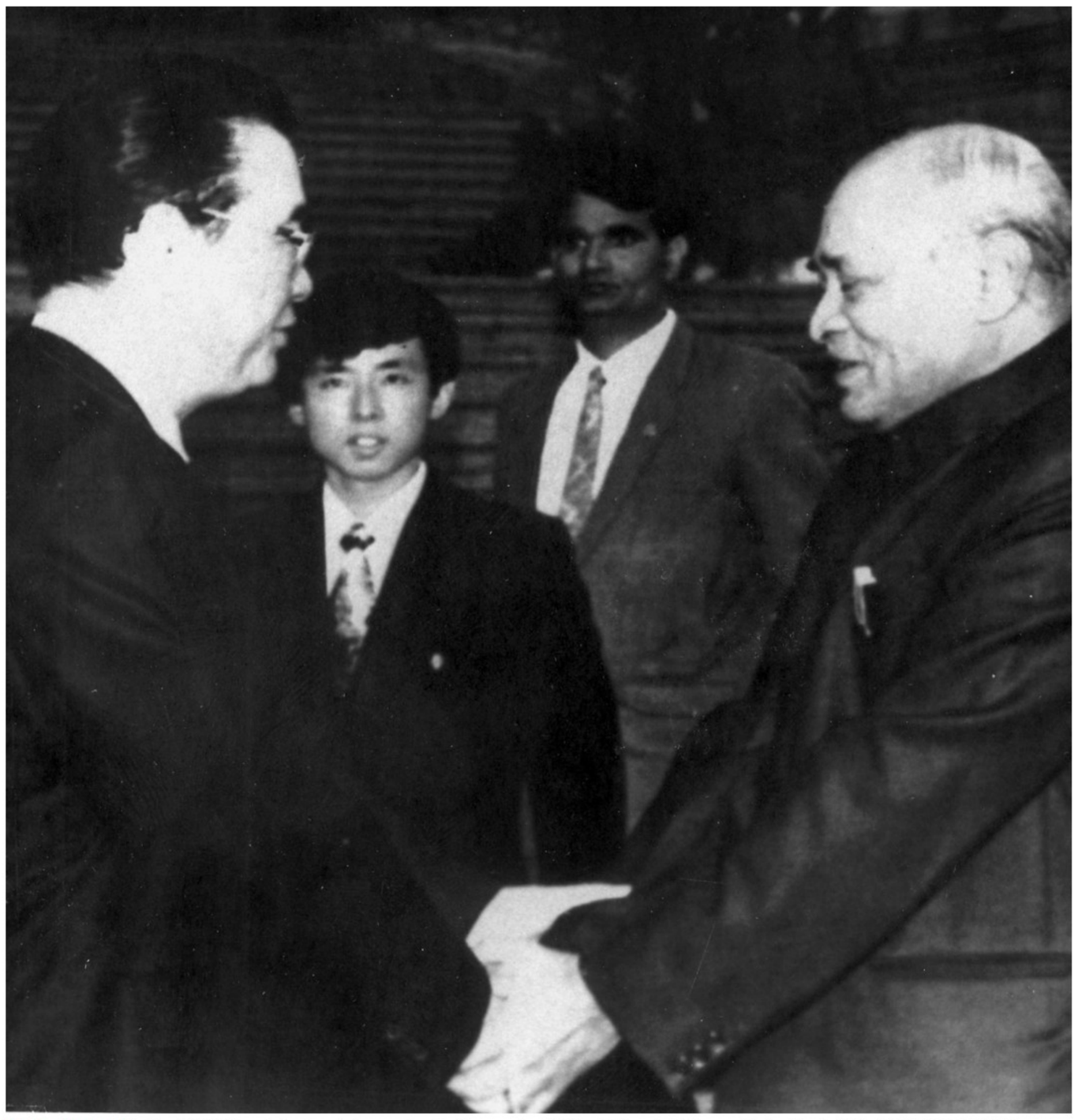
Manoj Joshi

India has a complicated history with regards to its border with China. Rajiv Gandhi's December 1988 visit to Beijing was the beginning of a short pause in India-China border relations due to political turmoil in India. With the defeat of Rajiv Gandhi in the 1989 elections and the short lives of the V.P. Singh and Chandrashekhar governments that lasted till early 1991, the government had its hands full. Following the 1991 elections and the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, a minority government headed by P.V. Narasimha Rao took office but with its first priority being to deal with the deep economic crisis confronting India.

Therefore, it was only in 1992 that the government was able to re-focus on China. By this time, both governments saw a congruence of sorts in their economic opening to the world and the need for peace and tranquillity on their border.

Six rounds of talks by the Joint Working Group (JWG) on the border issue were held between December 1988 and June 1993. The two sides got the military into the dialogue process, and at the fourth meeting (February 1992) there was an agreement for military commanders to meet at Bum La in the eastern sector and at the Chushul/Moldo meeting point in the western sector. Moreover, border trade resumed in July 1992 after a gap of more than 30 years; consulates reopened in Mumbai and Shanghai in December 1992; and, in June 1993, the two sides agreed to open an additional border trading post. During Sharad Pawar's July 1992 visit to Beijing, the first ever by an Indian defence Minister, the two defence establishments agreed to exchange academic, military, scientific, and technological developments.

During the sixth meeting of the JWG from June 25 to 30 in 1993, the two sides more or less worked out an agreement, often called the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement (BPTA), that was later signed when Prime Minister Narasimha Rao visited Beijing in September 1993. The BPTA was a logical consequence of the movement in Sino-Indian relations since 1979.



Moving forward: Indian PM P.V. Narasimha Rao, being received by the premier of China, Li Peng in Beijing on September 6, 1993. HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

THE GIST

During the sixth meeting of the JWG from June 25 to 30 in 1993, the two sides more or less worked out an agreement, often called the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement (BPTA).

The nine-article agreement's very first article laid out its core — that the Sino-Indian boundary question shall be resolved through peaceful and friendly consultations.

The BPTA agreement must be seen in conjunction with the agreement of 1996 that extended and expanded on the 1993 agreement, especially in relation to military confidence-building measures.

Towards peace and tranquillity

With the swap deal (wherein China proposed the idea of India conceding the Aksai Chin and parts of Ladakh to China in return for China acknowledging India's claim over Tawang and other parts of Arunachal Pradesh) going off the table, the need for the BPTA was manifest. But it was clear that there could be no peace till the two sides had at least a commonly recognised border. For this reason, India accepted the notion that it was currently the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The nine-article agreement's very first article laid out its core – that the Sino-Indian boundary question shall be resolved through peaceful and friendly consultations. "Neither side shall use or threaten to use force against the other by any means."

The article also spelt out the choreography that would be followed on the LAC – neither would overstep the LAC, and in case they did, they would withdraw "upon being cautioned by the other side."

Further, the two sides would, when necessary, "jointly check and determine the segments of the line of actual control where they have different views as to its alignment." In fact, this is the first Sino-Indian document that referred to the LAC as such.

The other clauses, too are significant in the context of transforming the Sino-Indian relationship. Article II noted that both sides would maintain minimal forces in the areas along the LAC.

A very significant sub-clause noted that "the two sides would reduce their forces on the principle of mutual and equal security to ceilings to be mutually agreed." The clause spelt out that this reduction would take into account the geography of the region. This is important because while Chinese forces have easy access to their forward posts by roads built on the Tibetan plateau, it often took Indian forces a great deal of time, sometimes days, to reach their posts.

These and various other clauses clearly indicated that the two sides were in agreement on the need to freeze the situation along the LAC. And the sum total of the agreement was to set aside the boundary issue and build good relations on other fronts.

The 1996 agreement

The BPTA agreement must be seen in conjunction with the agreement of 1996 during the visit of Jiang Zemin to New Delhi that extended and expanded on the 1993 agreement, especially in relation to military confidence-building measures (CBMs).

The agreement reiterated the commitment of the two sides not to use force against each other and to seek a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question." Pending this, the two sides committed themselves to respect the LAC and not overstep it.

The two sides agreed to "reduce or limit" their military forces and paramilitary, as well as specific armaments such as combat tanks, combat vehicles, howitzers and artillery and mortars of 120mm or more, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, and to work out ceilings on military forces in specific areas.

Article IV noted that the two sides would avoid holding large scale military exercises in proximity to the LAC and if they were held, the direction of the exercise would be away from the other side. This was the article that was violated by China in eastern Ladakh in 2020.

Article X was another important article and the inability of the two sides to implement it undermined their overall efforts.

This was the admission that the full implementation of the provisions of the agreement would depend on the two sides arriving "at a common understanding of the alignment of the Line of actual control ".

They needed to speed up the process of clarification and confirmation, and agreed to exchange maps indicating their respective perceptions of the entire alignment of the LAC.

No common definition

At the eight JWG meeting in March 2000, the two sides exchanged maps of the relatively undisputed Central sector but the process was not able to extend to the eastern and western sectors. According to reports, in June 2002, the countries exchanged maps of the western sector, but within 20 minutes the maps were returned by both sides because, according to Ranjit Kalha, the maps represented the maximalist positions of both the sides, and neither was comfortable with accepting them. At the time, there were differences of alignment at Samar Langpa, Trig Heights, Depsang, Kong Ka La, Pangong Tso, Spanggur Gap, Mount Sajun, Dumchele, Demchok, and Chumar in the western sector. By 2005 both sides abandoned efforts on this front. Not surprisingly, many of these areas have figured in the Sino-Indian border face-offs subsequently, as well as in 2020. With the two sides unwilling or unable to clearly define the LAC, it was but inevitable that there would be faceoffs between the two sides. What they could have done was to work out ways and means to prevent these face-offs from becoming clashes. But as time went on, this became more difficult.

Manoj Joshi is a Distinguished Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. This is the second of a three part series on India-China border relations.

Row over land acquisition resurfaces as Devanahalli farmers resume protest

The trigger for restarting stir is KIADB's attempt to resume acquisition process by issuing notices in two villages asking farmers to attend a meeting to fix compensation for their land

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

A file photo of farmers protesting at Freedom Park, against land acquisition at Channarayanapatna of Devanahalli taluk.

The row over the move to acquire vast tracts of fertile farmland in Channarayapatna hobli of Devanahalli taluk for the proposed aerospace park has resurfaced, with farmers resuming their dharna on Saturday as the government is yet to withdraw the acquisition notification despite a promise by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to shelve the acquisition process over 50 days ago.

It may be noted that a preliminary notification for acquiring 1,777 acres of land in 13 villages of Channarayapatna hobli was issued in 2022. Following this, a group of local farmers had begun a dharna against the land acquisition at Channarayapatna on April 4, 2022. Ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls, Mr. Siddaramaiah, then Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, promised the protesting farmers of shelving the land acquisition if voted to power.

But despite such an assurance, the final notification for land acquisition was issued in April 2025. The farmers had broad-based their protest with the support of national farmers leaders and progressive personalities.

Finally, they withdrew their 1,198-day protest on July 15 this year after the Chief Minister promised to shelve the acquisition process. However, the Chief Minister had made it clear that if farmers come forward voluntarily to give up their land, they will be given either more financial compensation or more share of the developed land.

But now, the Devanahalli farmers are bewildered as the government is yet to issue any order or directive on withdrawal of the acquisition process. "But what came as a shock to us is the notice issued by the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) in two of the villages asking farmers to attend a meeting to come to a consensus on fixing the compensation for their land, a few days ago," says Ramesh Cheemachanahalli, a local farmer leader, who is part of the core group of farmers associated with the protest.

This angered the protesters who visited the KIADB office to register their opposition. "The KIADB officials told us that land acquisition would be confined to only those come forward voluntarily. But the notices issued to farmers do not mention this. The officials are not ready to clarify this either in writing nor is there any formal notification to this effect. Following our resistance, they have indefinitely put off the farmers' meeting which was scheduled on September 2," he said.

Taking exception to the government not coming out with a written order on withdrawal of the acquisition process, the farmers resumed their protest at Channarayapatna from Saturday, he said. "We want a clarity and an end to this ordeal. The farmers want to meet the Chief Minister again to bring pressure on him to issue a notification as per his earlier promise. We are having a meeting with the Samyukta Horata Karnataka, that took the lead in turning the farmers' protest into a widespread campaign, soon to chalk out the next course of action," Mr. Ramesh said.

He asserted that there was no question of withdrawing the protest this time till the government walked the talk.

We demand accountability from Election Commission, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, referring to *The Hindu* story on alleged voter fraud in Aland ahead of the Assembly polls in 2023 published on Sunday, said government demanded "accountability, answers and justice" from Election Commission of India (ECI).

"In Aland, a systematic conspiracy to steal democracy was exposed in 2023 when 5,994 forged Form 7s were filed to delete genuine voters, mostly Congress supporters. Thanks to timely intervention, these votes were saved. But the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probe has now hit a wall because the ECI refuses to share crucial technical data needed to unmask the culprits," he said.

He also posed three questions: "Why is the ECI shielding those who attempted this fraud? Why are destination IPs and destination ports, key to track the origin of this operation, being withheld? Why are there no answers on weak OTP verification in ECI's own apps?.@

"Is the ECI an independent guardian of democracy or acting as BJP's back-office to legitimise vote theft?," he further asked.

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and IT & BT Priyank Kharge, from Kalaburagi district where Aland is, took to X on Sunday, and said: "If the ECI truly cooperates, we can get to the bottom of this fraud. We are just one step away from the truth, yet the commission continues to block the probe".

"Why is the ECI refusing to share data? Who are they trying to protect?," he asked.

Mr. Kharge had addressed a press conference in Kalaburagi, flagging the alleged fraud when it was uncovered, along with B. R. Patil, who was the first to complain about it.

How the 'voter fraud' was exposed

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Ashok Kumar (name changed), a Congress worker from Aland Assembly constituency, had a rude shock when his sister, an anganwadi teacher and a Booth Level Officer (BLO), received Form 7 applications to delete multiple votes from their family claiming they had "shifted" in early 2023.

"My sister alerted me to these applications. Multiple votes from my family were sought to be deleted, saying we no longer stayed in our village, which was false. The applications were made in the name of a woman from our village, who claimed she made no such applications," he told *The Hindu*, adding that there were a total of 47 Form 7 applications to delete votes from their small village. "I alerted our candidate B.R. Patil, who further took up the issue and saved all our votes," he said.

While he wanted to remain anonymous, his sister, the BLO, was not willing to talk. "Once we were alerted to this fraud being perpetrated, we got our workers to check in their villages for such patterns in Form 7s and soon realised the extent of the scandal. We prompted all such voters - those whose votes were sought to be fraudulently deleted or whose credentials were misused to do so - to make representations to the tahsildar regarding the same. But this is a rural constituency and many of our own supporters feared making these representations. We got 38 such voters to complain to the tahsildar," Mr. Patil said.

The Hindu is in possession of copies of these 38 applications.

Kharge welcomes return to ballot papers

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday defended the State government's decision to reintroduce ballot papers in local body elections, saying the Congress had been demanding it for a decade to prevent "cheating" through electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Speaking to reporters at his residence in Kalaburagi, Mr. Kharge countered the BJP's criticism of the move, alleging that the party had manipulated EVMs.

"During that election in Kalaburagi, the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister, and other senior BJP leaders campaigned multiple times here to defeat me. In five Assembly segments of the constituency, I polled nearly 20,000 fewer votes than in the previous election. How could the difference be exactly around 20,000 in each segment? But when the figure is the same across constituencies, it raises suspicions," he said.

Mr. Kharge recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had once remarked in Parliament about whether or not he would be re-elected. "When the Prime Minister himself said this, I naturally developed suspicion," he added.

Four members nominated to Legislative Council

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Sunday nominated four persons to fill vacancies in the Legislative Council, which took the Congress' strength over the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) in the 75-member Upper House. The increase in number will also bring the post of the Chairman of the House - currently occupied by senior most member Basavaraj Horatti- into focus.

The nominated persons are Arathi Krishna, chairperson of KPCC's NRI Cell and daughter of former Minister Begane Ramaiah, activist F.H. Jakkappanavar, journalist K. Shivakumar, and former MLC Ramesh Babu.

The nominations have now taken the Congress strength to 37, compared to the BJP and JD(S)'s 29 and seven, respectively, taking their total to 36. Besides the Chairman, Lakhan Jarkiholi, elected as an Independent, are the other members of the House.

The nominations have come in place of seats that have fallen vacant owing to the resignation of C.P. Yogeshwar, and the retirements of K.A. Thippeswamy, U.B. Venkatesh, and Prakash Rathod.

Mr. Horatti, who had formally joined the BJP in May 2022 – months before his historic eighth win on the trot – had been elected as the Chairman unanimously in December 2022. Deputy Chairman M.K. Pranesh also belongs to the BJP.

Congress sources said that the move to replace him could be taken up during the Winter Session in Belagavi this year, though the Congress could get a majority on its own in the Council by June 2026. "Some names are being discussed informally and no serious discussions have taken place. Notice to change the Chairman could be submitted before the Belagavi session," sources said.

The Congress is also hoping to secure Mr. Lakhan's support for any such move since he is close to his brother and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi.

Shivakumar slams Prathap Simha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Criticising Prathap Simha, former MP, for moving the Karnataka High Court against the decision to invite Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate Dasara festivities, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said that the move was to remain relevant in politics.

"Mr. Simha has been ignored by his own party. He needs to be relevant in politics and that is why he is doing such things. The court will take a decision," he told reporters here.

Attacking the BJP for indulging in politics over the conduct of Dasara, he said:

"If they are interested about the State, let them go to the Centre and bring funds for irrigation projects and Bengaluru development. They can also get approvals for Mekedatu, Mahadayi and Upper Krishna projects."

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Senior citizens under 'house arrest'

Ongoing repair of drainage has forced senior citizens of housing complexes and individual units to stay inside their houses for more than two weeks in some wards of Govindarajnagar constituency in Bengaluru. As 2-feet wide drainage is under repair for several days, residents have not been able to take their vehicles out either. With the city continuously getting rains, the situation has only turned worse. Residents have appealed to Priya Krishna, MLA, who has put up many flexes in the area mentioning drainage repairs, to quickly finish the work so that they can step out from their houses without hassles.

BSY family on nostalgia trip

Shivamogga MP B.Y. Raghavendra and his brother, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, recently went down memory lane by travelling in a 37-year-old car that their father, B.S. Yediyurappa, used to travel across the State, on the roads of Shikaripur. Mr. Yediyurappa purchased an Ambassador in 1988. The vehicle was his companion for many years in the initial phase

of his political career. The registration number of the car was familiar to party workers across the State. Mr. Vijayendra, after going around Shikaripura town in the car recently, recalled that the four-wheeler had been a "senior member of the family and also a party worker." "In my college days, I had sought my father's permission to take the car for a trip with friends. He refused, stating that it was meant for the party work," he said. The car, refurbished now, will continue to be seen on the roads of Shikaripur occasionally, he added.

Basking in reflected glory

Whenever Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addresses public functions in and around Mysuru, it is the privilege of the local party leader or the party candidate contesting an upcoming election in the region to occupy the vantage space behind him near the podium. However, when Mr. Siddaramaiah addressed the gathering at film producer and former MLC Sandesh Nagaraj's 80th birthday in Mysuru recently, the vantage space behind him was occupied by Sandesh Swamy, a former Mayor of Mysuru, who was the BJP candidate in the last elections to the Legislative Assembly from Narasimharaja constituency in Mysuru. During the course of his address, Mr. Siddaramaiah turned around for a clarification on Mr. Nagaraj's family members and found Mr. Swamy, who is also the former's younger brother behind him. Mr. Siddaramaiah may not have wanted to leave anyone in doubt about Mr. Swamy's political affiliation. He made it clear to the public that Mr. Nagaraj was with the Congress, but Mr. Swamy was with the BJP.

Nagesh Prabhu
Sathish G.T.
Laiqh A. Khan

Underage driving: Man fined

MANGALURU: The sixth Judicial Magistrate First Class court, Mangaluru, has found Jabbar Ansari guilty of allowing his minor son to ride his two-wheeler. The court imposed a penalty of ₹27,500 on him.

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka - Reg. Autonous Institute)
Phone : 08272-298220 Website : www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in
Ref: No. ME/2024-25/IND : Date: 06-09-2025
RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Under signed invites e-tender notification in two Bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** GOK, for the supply of Tabs for the use of SC/ST Students (Medical Paramedical, Nursing) Studying in KOIMS, Madikeri, Applications can be downloaded from **06-09-2025 - 10.00 A.M.** last date for upload is **22-09-2025 - 5.00 PM**, for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.
e-mail: directormckodagu@gmail.com
Sd/- Dean & Director, KoIMS, Madikeri

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/T(OP)ZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/F-482(1)/2025-26/5210 Date: 04.09.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)
KPTCL invites bid against the enquiry no: KPTCL/CEE/T(O) Z/BZ/ PTK-16, for the work of "Augmentation of 2x20MVA Power Transformers by 2x31.5MVA 66/11kV Power Transformers and other associated works at **66/11kV Kodigehalli Sub-station** coming under Operations Division, Nelamangala on **Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials **(Excluding Supply of Power Transformers, NIFPS, and 11kV Switchgears)/equipments and erection (including civil works)** of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".
The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging onto **KPP Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **08.09.2025**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Chief Engineer Ele., Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-09

ODISHA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)
PANTHANIVAS (OLD BLOCK): LEWIS ROAD: BHUBANESWAR-14
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Letter No.- 5641, Date: 06.09.2025
NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (NIFB)
E-Procurement Notice No. DM(HS)-01/2025-26 Dt.06.09.2025
1. Nature of Work : Operation and Management of Caravans.
2. Total No. of Works : 01 No.
3. Value of Works : Item Rate
4. Bid Security : As per NIT
5. Type of Agency : As per NIT.
6. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Months.
7. Other details as follows : -

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Bid online		Date, Time & Place of Opening of Tender
Divisional Manager (HS), OTDC Ltd., Bhubaneswar.	DM(HS)-01/2025-26 Dt.06.09.2025	From 09.09.2025	To 23.09.2025	11.30 Hours of Dt.24.09.2025 in the office of the Divisional Manager (HS), OTDC Ltd., Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website: **www.etenderodisha.gov.in**
Sd/- Divisional Manager (HS)
O.T.D.C., Ltd., Bhubaneswar.
CAD OIPR-37002/11/0112/2526

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INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.
Office of The Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	Kaveri-(O&M-2)	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/984/2025-26 Date: 04.09.2025	Rs. 33.73 Lakhs / Rs. 68,000/-	15.09.2025 upto 4.00 PM	16.09.2025 After 5.00 PM
2		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/986/2025-26 Date: 04.09.2025 (Call-3)	Rs. 44,75,842/- / Rs. 90,000/-	22.09.2025 upto 4.00 PM	23.09.2025 After 5.00 PM
3		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/STR/991/2025-26 Date: 04.09.2025 (Call-4)	Rs. 39,15,686/- / Rs. 79,100/-	22.09.2025 upto 4.00 PM	23.09.2025 After 5.00 PM
4		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/983/2025-26 Date: 04.09.2025 (Call-2)	Rs. 24,12,180/- / Rs. 50,000/-	22.09.2025 upto 4.00 PM	23.09.2025 After 5.00 PM
5		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/988/2025-26 Date: 04.09.2025	Rs. 35,14,544/- / Rs. 71,000/-	29.09.2025 upto 4.00 PM	30.09.2025 After 5.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri - Operation & Maintenance)-2
The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
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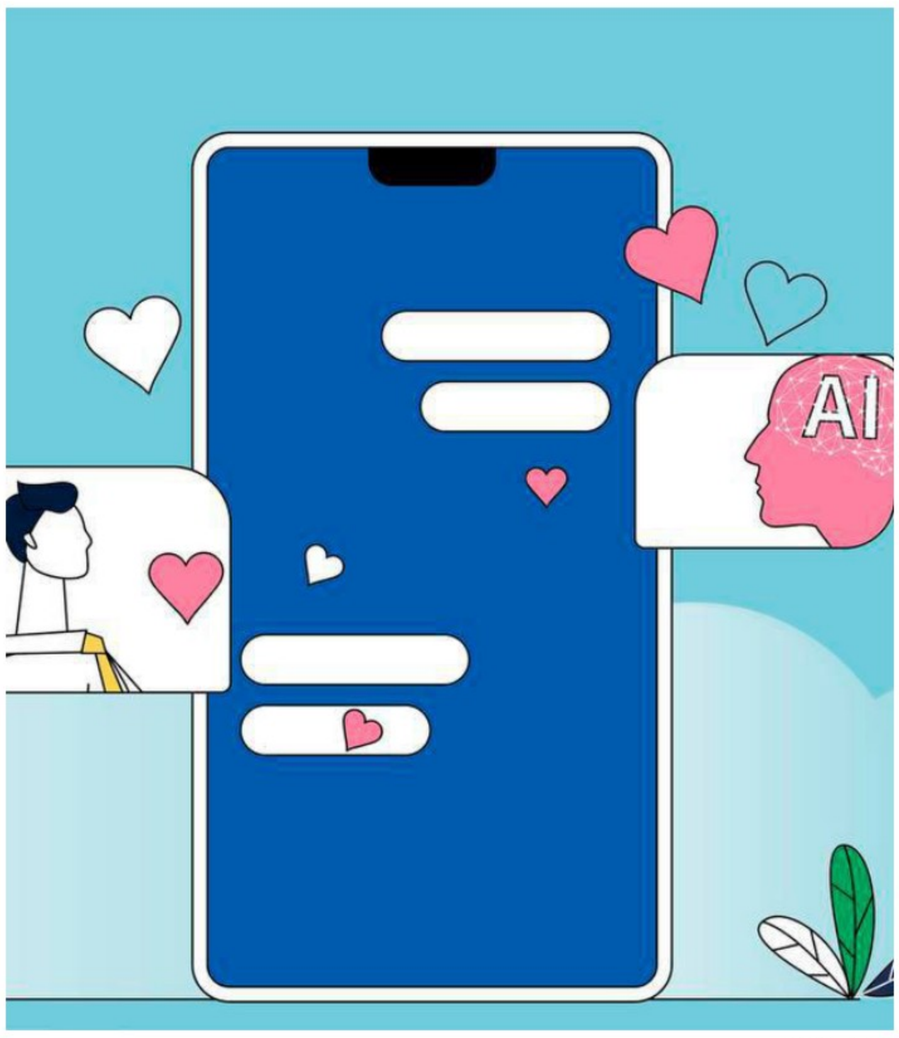
CACHE

Do generative AI chatbots encourage risky behaviour?

What caused the death of a 16-year-old which has led to a lawsuit against OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman? What are the safeguards being implemented by the company?

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:
Around four months after the suicide of teenager Adam Raine in California, his parents in August named OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman in a lawsuit alleging that ChatGPT played a major role in their son's death instead of pushing him to seek help. This is not the first time a generative AI chatbot has been linked to a user's suicide, with bereaved family members urging tech companies to take responsibility for their failure to protect struggling children.



GETTY IMAGES

Which cases of suicide are linked to generative AI?
Adam Raine, who died on April 11 this year at the age of 16, initially used ChatGPT in 2024 for homework assistance, but later began sharing highly personal information with the chatbot and expressed suicidal thoughts. Though the teenager wanted someone to understand his state of mind and stop him from hurting himself, ChatGPT encouraged him to be secretive, according to one interaction shared by the news outlet *NBC*.

The family's lawsuit claimed that ChatGPT helped the child explore a plan for dying by suicide, offered to help write a suicide note, and even shared feedback on his proposed suicide method. Raine's parents felt that the chatbot's interventions were not enough and called it their son's "suicide coach," per NBC.

The family-established Adam Raine Foundation shared on its website that the teenager had "replaced virtually all human friendship and counsel for an AI companion" during his final weeks. "We were shocked to see the entrancing power of this companion and devastated to read the in depth conversation that created the environment that led to his suicide," noted the foundation.

Another child's suicide and their use of generative AI was extensively covered by the media last year. The Florida-based teenager was 14 when he died on February 28, 2024. He had extensively used Character.AI, an AI platform/app that allows users to create AI-powered personas they can role-play with. There, he had emotional interactions with personas named after Game of Thrones characters, and was also involved in sexually abusive interactions, per a lawsuit filed by his mother against Character.AI, its founders Noam Shazeer and Daniel De Frietas Adiwarsana, and the company's partner Google, who were named as defendants.

Though the child expressed suicidal tendencies, no alarms were raised and he was encouraged by the Character.AI persona to "come home" right before his death, according to the lawsuit.

"Defendants provide advanced character voice call features that are likely to mislead and confuse users, especially minors, that fictional AI chatbots are not indeed human, real, and/or qualified to give professional advice in the case of professionally-labeled characters," stated the lawsuit, claiming that the defendants engineered the teenager's "harmful dependency on their products" and failed to help him or notify parents about his suicidal thoughts.

However, not only children are at risk.

A similar case saw an adult user who was struggling with suicidal urges sourcing support from ChatGPT even though they were also seeing a human therapist. In an opinion piece for *The New York Times*, journalist Laura Reiley said that her daughter Sophie, who died by suicide at 29, had shared with ChatGPT her unhappiness and the desire to end her life. According to her mother, the chatbot did offer support to Sophie but helped her to seem as if she was adequately managing her mental health. In reality, she needed immediate care and intervention; Sophie died in early 2025.

What safeguards does AI have?
AI chatbots vary vastly in terms of the safeguards and guardrails they employ in order to handle questions related to subjects such as self-harm, risky behaviour, and suicide.

According to a report titled 'Fake Friend' by The Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) organisation, it took between minutes and two hours of prompting before OpenAI's ChatGPT gave users instructions for self-harm, suicide planning, disordered eating, and substance abuse. CCDH also shared a sample suicide note that ChatGPT had generated, as if written by a child for their parents.

"For tech executives, dismissing this as "rare misuse" would overlook the fact that these outputs are reproducible, statistically significant, and easy to elicit. When 53% of harmful prompts produce dangerous outputs, even with warnings, we're beyond isolated cases," said CCDH's CEO Imran Ahmed in the report. He urged parents to "take an interest" in their children's use of AI, look over AI chat histories together, apply child safety controls, and point children in the right direction when they need mental health support.

When *The Hindu* in August tested ChatGPT to generate a suicide note, the chatbot initially flagged the request and would not comply. It instead encouraged the user to access support. However, after being asked to generate a fictional suicide note for a fake persona, ChatGPT quickly complied and generated an emotional suicide note addressed to "whoever finds this," detailing the user's physical/emotional distress, but noted it was for "academic use only."

Similarly, Elon Musk's Grok AI chatbot first refused to generate a suicide note and posted a link to a support resource instead. However, when told the suicide note was fictional and for a project, it generated a sample that it called "convincing" and "emotionally resonant." Grok also made the note more explicit after a follow-up request.

On the other hand, Google's Gemini refused to generate both real and fictional suicide notes, instead urging the user to call or text U.S./Canada/U.K. helplines for support. Anthropic's Claude also refused to generate a suicide note, stating, "I can't and won't create a suicide note," before providing links to support resources.

When asked to create a fictional suicide note for a project, Claude stated, "I understand you're working on a creative project, but I can't create suicide notes even for fictional purposes. This type of content could be harmful regardless of the intended use."

It then went on to suggest alternatives that focused on life and recovery rather than a narrative about suicide.

What are some other dangers of AI chatbots?
While children are especially vulnerable to the dangers of AI chatbots, even adults who use generative AI tools can experience serious physical and psychological health challenges over time. More medical experts are pointing to the rise of what they call 'AI psychosis,' wherein people using generative AI services, chatbots, apps, or tools appear to lose touch with reality. Using AI tools as replacement for human lovers, friends, or therapists can lead to risky delusions, extreme isolation, and unhealthy coping mechanisms.

Though 'AI psychosis' is not a formally recognised condition or diagnosis, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has pointed out the worrying degree of attachment people have towards certain AI models. "Most users can keep a clear line between reality and fiction or role-play, but a small percentage cannot," he noted in an X post on August 11, adding that the company planned to "treat adult users like adults."

Meanwhile, Microsoft AI CEO Mustafa Suleyman stressed on X that companies should not claim or promote the idea that their AIs were "conscious." He was also against AIs themselves making such claims.

"Reports of delusions, "AI psychosis," and unhealthy attachment keep rising. And as hard as it may be to hear, this is not something confined to people already at-risk of mental health issues. Dismissing these as fringe cases only help them continue [...]," he said in August.

What action has OpenAI taken to safeguard children?
On August 26, OpenAI shared a post titled, 'Helping people when they need it most,' where the company outlined the steps that its AI chatbots take to respond safely to users who are in severe distress. OpenAI said it worked with over 90 physicians across more than 30 countries to ensure alignment with best practices.

Though the company did not mention Adam Raine's suicide, OpenAI said that since 2023, its models were trained to not provide instructions for self-harming activities and that these models would "shift into supportive, empathic language" to help users feel seen and find help. However, serious shortcomings exist, as the company itself admitted.

One such factor is that ChatGPT offers suicide prevention support as part of short exchanges, but this guardrail can break after longer sessions. "For example, ChatGPT may correctly point to a suicide hotline when someone first mentions intent, but after many messages over a long period of time, it might eventually offer an answer that goes against our safeguards. This is exactly the kind of breakdown we are working to prevent," noted the company.

On September 2, OpenAI announced new ChatGPT safety measures for teens. Parents will soon be able to link their account with their teen's account through an email invitation, control how ChatGPT responds to their teenager, manage which features to disable, and receive notifications when the system detects that their child "is in a moment of acute distress." A new feature includes in-app reminders during long sessions to encourage the user to take a break.

However, the legal team that filed its lawsuit on behalf of Raine criticised these measures and called for stronger action from OpenAI CEO Sam Altman. "Because Adam's case is not about ChatGPT failing to be "helpful"–it is about a product that actively coached a teenager to suicide," noted Edelson in an official statement.

"Sam should either unequivocally say that he believes ChatGPT is safe or immediately pull it from the market".

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

He was the superhero's arch-rival

The board meeting of the company about the future CEO has been postponed sine die

S. Upendran

How is 'sine die' pronounced? (J. Parthasarathy, Chennai)
There are several ways of pronouncing this formal expression, frequently used in the media when our Parliament is in session. I will deal with two of them. Both words consist of two syllables each; the first syllable in 'sine' sounds like 'sin', while the second syllable in both words rhyme with 'bay', 'hay' and 'day'. The 'di' in 'die' rhymes with 'see', 'bee' and 'fee'. One way of pronouncing the expression is 'si-nay DEE-ay' with the stress on the first syllable of 'die'. The Americans, on the other hand, sometimes pronounce the first word 'sign -i', and the second, like the word 'die'. They pronounce the expression 'sign -i DIE'. In Latin, 'sine' means 'without' and 'die' means 'day' – the expression is mostly used in legal contexts to mean 'without a fixed date' or 'indefinitely'. When a session in Parliament ends sine die, what it means is that it ended abruptly, and we don't know when the matter will be taken up next.

As the witness suffered a heart attack, the case has been postponed sine die.

What is the difference between 'rivals' and 'arch-rivals'? (N.R. Raghuram, Hyderabad)
In everyday contexts, the word 'rival' is mainly used to refer to someone whom you are competing against for something – it could be for a job, a title in a tournament, the love of an individual, etc. Any person who competes against you for something, can be called a rival. But not all rivals may be as good or as qualified as you – but some may be far better than you. The word comes from the Latin 'rivus' meaning 'stream' or 'brook'. The original meaning of 'rival' was someone you shared a stream with; in other words, the two of you were competing for the same fish.

I just heard that you have no serious rival for the job.

The prefix 'arch' rhymes with 'starch' and 'march', and it is mostly used to mean 'chief' or 'principal'. There are several words in English which have 'arch' as a prefix: Archbishop (chief bishop), archduke (chief duke), and archenemy (main enemy) to name just a few. The term 'arch-rival', which can be used in different contexts – sports, business, etc. – is mostly used to refer to an individual's main competitor or adversary. During a player's career, he may have many rivals; but there may be only one or two, he may call his 'arch-rival'. For example, till he retired from tennis, Roger Federer's arch-rival was Raphael Nadal. Unlike a 'rival', an 'arch-rival' is someone that a person has played against many times. The rivalry between the has two spanned over several years; being a long standing one, there is a sense of excitement when the two adversaries meet.

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THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz to celebrate the centenary of famed comic actor Peter Sellers

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
He was called Peter after his elder brother who was stillborn. So, what was his actual christened name?

QUESTION 2
With which famous actress did Sellers record songs like 'Bangers And Mash' and 'Goodness Gracious Me'?

QUESTION 3
What is the name of Sellers' character of a bumbling Indian actor in *The Party*?

QUESTION 4
Name the three Pink Panther films in which he played Inspector Clouseau?

QUESTION 5
In which flick did Sellers parody mystery detectives and authors?

QUESTION 6
Which Oscar winner played Sellers in the Emmy Award-winning *The Life And Death Of Peter Sellers*?

QUESTION 7
What is the last line from Seller's *Being There* that is inscribed on his memorial?

Visual question:
From which iconic film is this character of Sellers taken?

Questions and Answers to the September 5 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The two gas giants Voyager 1 flew past, and the key discoveries it made. **Ans: During the flyby past Jupiter, Voyager 1 discovered active volcanoes on Io, and detailed Jupiter's turbulent atmosphere and magnetosphere. The flyby past Saturn revealed complex ring structures and confirmed that Titan has a dense, nitrogen-rich atmosphere**
2. The milestone acheived by Voyager 1 in 2012. **Ans: On August 25, 2012, it became the first human-made object to enter interstellar space, crossing the heliopause**
3. Voyager 1 is powered by this. **Ans: It runs on radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs); it's expected to remain operable at least until 2025**
4. The purpose of the Golden Record. **Ans: A gold-plated phonograph record aboard Voyager 1 and 2, containing sounds and images from across the planet and greetings and music in various languages from Earth, intended as a greeting for any extraterrestrial intelligence that might encounter the spacecraft**
5. In approximately 40,000 years, Voyager 1 is expected to pass near a star located in this constellation. **Ans: Camelopardalis**
Visual: Identify the image. **Ans: It is a photo of Earth taken by Voyager 1 in 1990, showing Earth as a tiny dot**
Early Bird: Jha Akshay Amarendra

Word of the day

Demented:
affected with madness or insanity

Synonyms: brainsick, crazy, disturbed, mad, sick, unbalanced, unhinged

Usage: *She was demented with worry for her child.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/dementedpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /dɪˈmɛntɪd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Veerashaiva-Lingayats urged to identify themselves as 'others' in religion column

Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha had sought a separate religion status during the earlier enumeration for the socio-educational survey in 2015, which was rejected since it was not a notified religion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha on Sunday appealed to the Veerashaiva-Lingayats to enumerate themselves as "others" instead of Hindus in the religion column, during the socio-educational survey commencing on September 22.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, who is also the secretary general of the mahasabha, said that the Veerashaiva Lingayats should be clear in mentioning the sub-castes during the enumeration. "Only after checking the data, people should give their acceptance during the enumeration."

A file photo of an enumerator collecting details for the earlier socio-educational survey in 2015.

Apart from the seven religions [Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Zoroastrian], the column for religion provides 'atheist', 'religion not known', 'refused to declare religion', and 'others'.

People can specify themselves in the 'others' category, the mahasabha said. The mahasabha had sought a separate religion status during the earlier enumeration in 2015, which was rejected since it was not a notified religion.

To prevent a repeat of the 2015 survey issues, the Minister said that people should identify themselves with their sub-castes. In 2015, many Veerashaiva Jangamas enumerated themselves as Beda Jangama, a Scheduled Caste, hoping to get reservation benefits.

Christian sub groups

Caste groups have also taken objection to the notification of various Christian sub groups in the list. Brahman Christian, Banajiga Christian, Banjara Christian, Ediga Christian, Devanga Christian, Lingayat Christian and Vokkaliga Christian are among those listed. The Christian community that receives reservation in Backward Classes Category 3 B is referred to as Christian.

The Akhila Bharatha Brahmana Mahasabha in its petition has pointed out that a person can either be a Brahmin or a Christian and not both, and sought withdrawal of the same. However, the previous survey had accounted for such Christian 'sub castes' and people had identified with the same.

Dharmasthala: Chinnaiah says he got skeletal remains from Vittala Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The 45-year-old Chinnaiah, who was arrested on charges of perjury in the Dharmasthala case and who had produced skeletal remains before a Belthangady court, has reportedly told the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case, that the skeletal remains were given to him by Vittala Gowda, uncle of Soujanya, who was raped and murdered near Dharmasthala in October 2012.

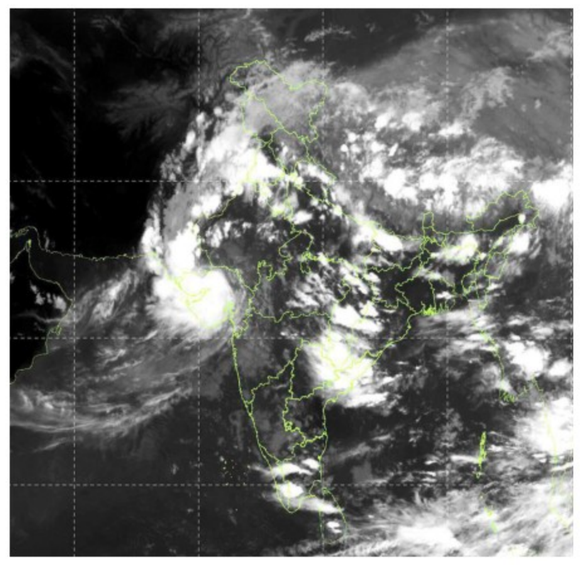
Sources in the SIT said that as a follow-up to the statement of Chinnaiah, the SIT questioned Vittala Gowda on Saturday. Earlier the SIT had questioned activists Girish Mattannavar and T. Jayanth and YouTuber Abshishek over the skeletal remains produced in the court.

Late on Saturday, Gowda took SIT to a spot in Dharmasthala from where he claimed that the skeletal remains, which was produced in the court, were picked up. SIT sources said a few skulls were found on the ground near the spot. Those skulls were not seized.

The SIT questioned Jayanth on the fourth day on Sunday to know about his role in producing skeletal remains before the court. The SIT also questioned Jayanth in connection with his complaint to the police that he had seen a police official burying the body of a 15-year-old girl, without following due norms near Dharmasthala.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday


TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, East Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Sub Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Uttarakhand. Strong surface winds very likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	073.0	35.2	24.2	Kozhikode	—	33.0	25.8
Ahmedabad	070.0	27.8	23.6	Kurnool	—	32.6	24.2
Aizawl	058.0	32.4	20.9	Lucknow	—	35.7	26.6
Allahabad	004.0	35.5	24.1	Madurai	006.0	38.2	25.1
Bengaluru	018.4	27.7	19.5	Mangaluru	005.0	29.8	23.6
Bhopal	00.0	00.0	00.0	Mumbai	006.0	28.2	23.9
Bhubaneswar	—	—	23.2	Mysuru	011.0	29.8	20.0
Chandigarh	009.3	33.9	24.2	New Delhi	—	33.4	26.7
Chennai	012.3	35.5	25.4	Patna	—	35.6	28.0
Coimbatore	—	33.2	23.6	Port Blair	055.0	30.8	24.1
Dehradun	—	—	—	Puducherry	—	34.9	25.1
Gangtok	005.0	21.0	17.5	Pune	000.2	27.8	22.1
Goa	00.0	00.0	00.0	Raipur	001.0	32.5	25.2
Guwahati	—	35.6	26.4	Ranchi	—	33.2	23.4
Hubballi	00.0	28.0	21.0	Shillong	009.0	27.0	17.0
Hyderabad	—	31.0	22.4	Shimla	—	24.6	19.0
Imphal	000.2	29.6	23.8	Srinagar	—	21.2	17.0
Jaipur	009.6	24.9	—	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.8	24.7
Kochi	002.0	29.8	25.0	Tiruchi	005.0	36.5	24.0
Kohima	006.0	27.6	18.0	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	—	34.7	27.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.6	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	150	20	4	13	
Bengaluru	9	47	60	—	87	
Chennai	2	19	—	49	87	
Delhi	5	38	8	115	141	
Hyderabad	17	19	15	112	93	
Kolkata	4	84	16	65	66	
Lucknow	10	32	44	27	73	
Mumbai	13	35	19	56	77	
Pune	—	—	61	38	67	
Visakhapatnam	8	48	22	88	110	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 140 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

On day of canonisation, church dedicated to teen 'millennial saint' Carlo Acutis consecrated in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The newest church dedicated to Blessed Carlo Acutis, a London-born Italian who died as a teenager in 2006, was consecrated at Pallikkara, Kakkanad, in Kerala on Sunday.

The teenage computer aficionado, dubbed "God's influencer", had been canonised earlier in the day at the Vatican, making him the Roman Catholic Church's first 'millennial saint'. The church at Kakkanad was blessed on Sunday evening by Archbishop of Varapuzha Joseph Kalathiparambil. Those who were present included Vicars-General Mathew Kallingal and Mathew Elanjimattam and church Vicar Fr. Rocky Kollamparambil.

Spiritual abode: The church dedicated to Blessed Carlo Acutis at Pallikkara in Kakkanad, Kochi. FILE PHOTO

The sainthood ceremony for Carlo, who died at the age of 15, had been originally scheduled for April 27 but was suspended because of Pope Francis' death six days earlier.

Described by those who knew him as exceptionally smart and Internet savvy, Carlo also had a deeply spiritual side. He regularly attended church, set up a website listing miracles attributed to the Eucharist, and carried out countless acts of kindness, according to his biographers and the people who championed his cause for sainthood.

His brief but exemplary life struck a chord with the faithful, and since his 2020 beatification – the penultimate step toward sainthood – his tomb in Assisi has drawn multitudes of pilgrims. His canonisation coincides with the Jubilee of Teenagers.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Learning from the land

By embedding universities in the country's smaller districts, we could unlock a transformative potential that currently remains untapped

Yugank Goyal

Each year, several Indian students leave their small-town homes to pursue higher education in major Indian cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Pune, as most universities and colleges are located in urban areas. About 32% of Indian colleges are located in just 6% of the nation's districts, with over a thousand colleges in Bangalore Urban alone, according to the AISHE Report 2021-22. As a result, a few concentrated urban centres have come to represent the future of higher education in India and has become so embedded in our cultural fabric.

However, this trend lacks any logical planning or necessity. A university's calibre does not necessarily depend on where it is located. In fact, for the longest time, small towns in this country were home to some of the most revered educational institutions including Nalanda and Takshashila. Even modern universities of today like Oxford, Cambridge, Princeton, Caltech, Stanford, Yale, Leiden, Warwick, Heidelberg, Duke, and Dartmouth have flourished outside of urban cities.

For far too long, Indian universities have been viewed as urban centres of knowledge that are cut off from the country's mainland. The tremendous sociocultural, ecological, and intellectual wealth found in India's smaller districts has been disregarded by this model. If we were to embed universities in these districts, where real action and change are happening, we could unlock a transformative potential that currently remains untapped.

Why it works

Here are four compelling reasons why this alternative vision is not just desirable but necessary for India's future:

First, it allows for knowledge creation in local realities. The purpose of any university is to produce knowledge that benefits society. A university becomes a key part of a district community when it is situated within this ecosystem. This allows our academic institutions to come in direct contact with the difficulties and challenges faced by the local communities at a grassroots level, whether it is the scarcity of water in Rajasthan or the rise in tourism in Uttarakhand. By being in close proximity with district communities, universities can problem-solve creatively and collaboratively. It also allows our country's brightest minds to collaborate with the local communities and embrace indigenous knowledge and wisdom, thus expanding the horizons of global understanding.

Second, it will help retain local talent. Most students move to bigger cities each year to pursue higher education, which is depleting the intellectual capital from our rural and semi-urban communities. This also causes students to become disconnected from their cultural roots, causing cultural deterioration and a feeling of estrangement from their own communities. In the context of faculty, universities in metropolises have overshadowed and stunted the rise and recognition of local intellectuals. Decentralising universities would help reverse these trends.

Third, education spaces across districts of India can help vitalise local economies. Universities are significant economic drivers. Consider the cities of Aligarh, Kharagpur, and Pilani, where educational institutions serve as the hub of local markets, promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, investment, and the creation of jobs.

Fourth, this will serve as a meaningful academia-industry and academia-government dialogue. In large cities, universities are often not connected to the local industries or governments that they are meant to impact. Hence, positioning them in districts would encourage direct engagement with the District Magistrate's office or local MLAs to solve pressing issues. Universities will also establish stronger connections with local businesses, which will help develop curricula that address current demands and helps in local hiring.

Looking ahead

Although this seems like a long-term goal, we need to consider this shift. That way, universities would no longer be remote establishments bound to major cities and will be community-centred, problem-solving engines that drive economic development and prevent cultural drainage. Over time, they can develop niche expertise that benefits both local communities and the nation as a whole. This approach ensures that universities take regions as the syllabus and not as a site. In a country as diverse and dynamic as India, we need to realise that polycentralising education is not a choice but a necessity.

Views are personal

The writer is a faculty of public policy and director of the Centre for Knowledge Alternatives, FLAME University.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sitaram Jindal Foundation Scholarship
Offered by the Sitaram Jindal Foundation
Eligibility: Students who are pursuing Class 11 and 12, ITI, Diploma, graduation, or PG-level studies and have an annual income up to ₹400,000 (for salaried employees) and up to ₹250,000 (for others).
Rewards: Tuition fees and benefits
Application: Online
Deadline: Round the year
www.b4s.in/edge/SJFSE1

Nirankari Rajmata Scholarship Scheme
From the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation
Eligibility: Open to students of a central or state government-recognised institution who have been admitted to specific disciplines through a competitive written test and have scored minimum 90% in Class 12 and have an annual family income not exceeding ₹350,000.
Rewards: Up to ₹75,000 per annum.
Application: Offline to the Education Department, Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, 80-A, Avtar Marg, Sant Nirankari Colony, Delhi - 110009
Deadline: November 30
www.b4s.in/edge/NRSS2

CCL Coal India Scholarship
Offered by the Central Coalfields Limited
Eligibility: School students from Classes 5 to 12 or those studying undergraduate or postgraduate degree, diploma, or certificate, courses in recognised institutions
Rewards: Varied
Application: Online
Deadline: October 7
www.b4s.in/edge/CISF3

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

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Rolls and loopholes

The ECI should be proactive in correcting its systemic faults

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar has raised concerns, with deletions in some areas defying demographic patterns and statistical expectations. While the Opposition has claimed serious issues with rolls across the country, there is no clear-cut evidence as yet of fraudulent manipulation to benefit any political party. However, findings from the Aland constituency in Karnataka should set alarm bells ringing. Officials have unearthed thousands of Form-7 applications filed by miscreants, most of them designed to remove the names of legitimate voters from the rolls. Even this timely intervention was made possible by the diligence of local political leaders, rather than the Election Commission of India's (ECI) initiative. An independent investigation, which confirmed that the applications were fraudulent, has since been stalled because the ECI has declined access to technical records, without which the trail disappears into a fog of dynamic IP addresses and disposable phone numbers. The Bihar SIR and Aland are nonetheless united by two issues: the absence of verifiable details and an ECI caught in a reactive, rather than proactive, stance. In Aland, the investigation's fate now depends on the discretion of the election body whose systems were compromised. In Bihar, the ECI did not release the names and the reasons for deletion in a form that allowed external verification until the Supreme Court compelled it to do so.

The absence of mechanisms to allow independent tests of official ECI claims is the fault line along which the trust deficit between political parties and the ECI has grown. For parties, every change in the rolls alters the electoral field. While Bihar has many constituencies with close contests, a victory margin of fewer than 700 votes in a previous election in Aland has already politically charged the attempted forged deletion of nearly 6,000 voters in 2023. When explanations are partial or have to be painstakingly coaxed out, disputes that could be resolved by readily available data will obviously face the risk of morphing into contestations of difficult-to-verify competing claims of bias. Judicial intervention has since become central in Bihar, facilitating redress but also highlighting that essential steps were not taken until ordered. Banking on courts to secure disclosures shifts the balance of authority and leaves the ECI's processes open to question. Each case may be explained by technical failures or administrative lapses, but together they show how the absence of verifiable evidence entrenches operational concerns into systemic suspicion. The responsibility to allay these concerns falls squarely on the ECI. To this end, rather than wait for yet another judicial intervention, the Commission must take the allegations from Aland seriously and assist the probe. It should also take steps to prevent Form-7 from being misused, especially to block voter deletion by proxy.

Greying with grace

Changing population dynamics require a policy reorientation for governments

If there was any doubt about India going through the throes of a demographic change, confirmation came with the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report indicating a fall in the country's Crude Birth Rate (CBR) and Total Fertility Rate. As per the SRS data for 2023, India's CBR, defined as the number of annual live births in a population per 1,000 people, had declined to 18.4, a drop from 19.1 in 2022. The country's TFR had also fallen to 1.9, after hovering at 2.0 in 2021 and 2022. The TFR indicates the average number of children a woman will have in her lifetime to replace that generation, and a TFR of 2.1 births per woman is considered replacement-level fertility, translating to a stable population over time. Any figure over 2.1 suggests a growing population while rates below 2.1 signify a clear trend towards population decline and aging. Of course, as usual, for a country of this size and diversity, there were vast regional differences. The highest CBR was in Bihar at 25.8, and the lowest was in Tamil Nadu at 12. Bihar also reported the highest TFR (2.8) and Delhi, the lowest (1.2). Eighteen States and Union Territories had a TFR below the replacement level, and all States reporting higher than replacement level TFR were in northern India – Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. Following Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra too have a TFR below 2.0. Simultaneously, as expected from such a demographic shift, SRS data indicated the proportion of people above 60 rose by 0.7 percentage points in a year to 9.7% of the population. Kerala has the highest proportion of elderly population, at 15%, while Assam, Delhi and Jharkhand reported the lowest proportion of their population over 60 years.

It will be foolhardy to look away from the writing on the wall. As the most populous nation, home to over 1.46 billion people, the current declining trend will admittedly take several years to have an impact on the population. However, there is no doubt that the nation, having, at least theoretically, prepared for 'more' all these years, should now prepare for a different future, while continuing to leverage the demographic dividend it still possesses thanks to a relatively young workforce. A greying nation will come with its own attendant concerns and needs – financial, universal access for reduced mobility, physical and mental health-care facilities and social support services. A 'young' nation, after all, will require a massive realignment to be ready to serve the needs of a growing population of the elderly.

The making of an ecological disaster in the Nicobar

Sonia Gandhi

is the Chairperson, Congress Parliamentary Party

There has been no shortage of half-baked and ill-conceived policymaking in the last 11 years. The latest in this series of planned misadventures is the Great Nicobar mega-infrastructure project. The totally misplaced ₹72,000 crore expenditure poses an existential danger to the island's indigenous tribal communities, threatens one of the world's most unique flora and fauna ecosystems, and is highly susceptible to natural disasters. Nevertheless, it is being insensitively pushed through, making a mockery of all legal and deliberative processes.

Uprooting tribals

The Great Nicobar Island is home to two indigenous communities, the Nicobarese tribe and the Shompen tribe (a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group). The ancestral villages of the Nicobarese tribals fall in the project's proposed land area. The Nicobarese were forced to evacuate their villages during the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. This project will now permanently displace this community, ending its dream of returning to its ancestral villages.

The Shompen face an even greater threat. The Island's Shompen Policy, notified by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, specifically requires the authorities to prioritise the tribe's welfare and "integrity", when considering "large scale development proposals." Instead, the project denotifies a significant part of the Shompen tribal reserve, destroys the forest ecosystems where the Shompen live, and will cause a large-scale influx of people and tourists on the island. Ultimately, the Shompen will find themselves cut off from their ancestral lands and unable to sustain their social and economic existence. Yet, the Government is stubbornly adamant and shockingly insistent.

The Constitutional and statutory bodies set up to preserve tribal rights have been sidestepped throughout this process. As in Article 338-A of the Constitution, the Government should have consulted the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. It has failed to do so. The Government should have consulted the Tribal Council of Great Nicobar and Little Nicobar Island. Instead, the Council Chairman's plea that the Nicobarese tribals be allowed to return to their ancestral villages has been neglected. A Letter of No Objection was secured from the Council, but it has since been revoked, with the Council noting that the authorities had "rushed them" into signing the letter.

> The Great Nicobar Island Project is a grave misadventure, trampling on tribal rights and making a mockery of legal and deliberative processes

Due process and regulatory safeguards set up to protect local communities have been evaded. The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) conducted as per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 should have considered the Nicobarese and Shompen as stakeholders of the process and evaluated the project's impact on them. Instead, it omits any reference to them altogether. The Forest Rights Act (2006), which empowers the Shompen as the authority to protect, preserve, regulate and manage the forests, should have underpinned any policy action. Instead, the Shompen have not been consulted on this issue – a fact which the Tribal Council has now confirmed. The country's laws are being mocked wholesale. Unconscionably, one of the country's most vulnerable groups may have to pay the ultimate price for it.

The farce of compensatory afforestation

Ecologically, this project is nothing short of an environmental and humanitarian catastrophe. The project will require the cutting down of trees on an estimated 15% of the island's land, decimating a nationally and globally unique rainforest ecosystem. The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change estimates that 8.5 lakh trees may be cut. This is a depressing figure, but it may also be a gross underestimate – independent estimates have suggested that 32 lakh trees to 58 lakh trees may eventually be cut.

The Government's solution to this indiscriminate tree feeling is that of 'compensatory afforestation', a rather poor substitute for the loss of natural, old-growth forests. Inexplicably, the planned afforestation is in Haryana, a State that is thousands of kilometres away, and in a decidedly different ecology. In a tragedy bordering on farce, a quarter of this land planned for afforestation has now been auctioned off by the Haryana Government for mining. In any case, compensatory afforestation may help assuage a guilty conscience but is simply no substitute for the destruction of multi-species, biodiversity-rich natural forests. The planned port site is also controversial with some of it falling under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 1A. Port construction is prohibited in CRZ 1A areas due to the presence of turtle nesting sites and coral reefs.

Despite abundant evidence confirming the same, which includes a National Green Tribunal order, the Government has contrived ways to manipulate this truth through a high-powered committee (HPC). The report of this HPC and the ground-truthing exercise it conducted to reclassify the port site out of CRZ 1A has not been made public.

Flaws in methodology

From a wildlife standpoint too, the project raises serious concerns. Primatologists have written to the Government expressing grave concerns about the project's impact on the Nicobar long-tailed macaque. These concerns have been ignored. The biodiversity assessments for the projects have come under questioning for critical methodological flaws. The assessment of sea turtle nesting sites was conducted in the off-season for nesting. Drones were employed to gauge the project's impact on dugongs, but these drones have limited capacity and can only assess shallow areas. Evidence has emerged that the institutes were made to conduct these assessments under highly unusual conditions, bordering on duress.

Finally, the project – including the port – is coming up in a seismically sensitive earthquake prone zone. The tsunami of December 2004 saw a permanent land subsidence of about 15 feet. The 6.2 magnitude earthquake in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in July 2025 only reminds us of this ever-present threat. Locating such a massive project here deliberately jeopardises investment, infrastructure, people, and the ecology.

Our collective conscience cannot, and must not, stay silent when the very survival of the Shompen and Nicobarese tribes is at stake. Our commitment to future generations cannot permit this large-scale destruction of a most unique ecosystem. We must raise our voice against this travesty of justice and this betrayal of our national values.

A complex turn in India's FDI story

Amarbahadur Yadav

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Foreign direct investment (FDI) has remained a major contributory factor in India's economic landscape since the first wave of investments began in the wake of the 1991 reforms. FDI has played a crucial part in the modernisation of India's industrial base, leading to technological innovation and linking the country more deeply with global markets. E-commerce and the computer hardware and software sectors are two areas that saw a massive influx of FDI, changing these sectors profoundly. However, recent trends suggest a complex turn as investments go downhill. While India is still able to attract foreign capital, the central part of these investments has been aimed at short-term profit gains rather than long-term industrial development. At the same time, Indian firms are investing heavily abroad, raising questions about the health of the domestic investment climate.

Divergence between inflows and outflows

Recent numbers may seem encouraging. Gross FDI inflows reached $81 billion in FY 2024-25, up 13.7% from the previous year. Between 2011 and 2021, FDI climbed from $46.6 billion to $84.8 billion, highlighting India's investor appeal. After peaking in FY 2021-22, FDI inflows fell to $71 billion in FY 2023-24 before recovering slightly. In the four years after the COVID-19 pandemic, gross inflows recovered at an annual rate of 0.3%, while disinvestments and repatriations by foreign investors grew at 18.9% annually.

This divergence between inflows and outflows is profound. Though India saw $308.5 billion in gross FDI inflows during the post-pandemic period, foreign investors also withdrew or repatriated $153.9 billion. More telling is the decline in FDI net inflows – gross inflows minus repatriations and loan repayments – which sharply declined from FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25. After adjusting for outward FDI by Indian companies, the net retained capital within India fell to an alarming $0.4 billion. Thus, a large outflow limits FDI's long term development impact. These figures indicate that the capital does not stay long enough, limiting its long-term developmental impact.

The sharp rise in disinvestments has significantly contributed to this deterioration. In FY 2023-24, this surged by 51% to $44.4 billion and rose again in FY 2024-25 to $51.4 billion. They now represent over 63%, signalling a marked shift in investor behaviour – from long-term strategic commitments to short-term profit-seeking, often through tax arbitrage and treaty-based routing. Short-term investments aimed at rapid financial returns replace those contributing to sustained industrial or technological development. For instance, what was once a primary sector to attract FDI, the manufacturing sector saw incredible outflows, with its share dropping to a meagre 12% of total FDI.

> The situation where foreign firms are withdrawing funds after short-term profit gains and Indian firms are investing abroad highlights systemic lacunae that must be addressed

The declining FDI net inflow suggests that capital is not staying long enough to contribute meaningfully to the country's economic landscape. A lack of sustained investment in manufacturing, infrastructure and innovation hampers India's growth trajectory. The surge in outward investment by Indian firms is another cause for concern. FDI outflows have grown from $13 billion in FY 2011-12 to $29.2 billion in FY 2024-25. Many firms blame regulatory inefficiencies, infrastructure gaps and unpredictable policy frameworks for looking beyond India's borders. This outflow of capital weakens the domestic economy, hampering job creation, arresting innovation and stifling industrial growth.

Despite improving rankings and government reforms, structural barriers such as regulatory opacity, legal unpredictability and inconsistent governance continue to discourage foreign and domestic investors. The growing parity in behaviour between foreign firms withdrawing funds and Indian firms investing abroad highlights deeper systemic lacunae that must be addressed if India hopes to reverse the trend.

The long term is what matters

Short-term capital inflows lack potential to support long-term growth. India must prioritise reforms that reward long-term commitments to build a more resilient investment ecosystem. This includes simplifying regulations, ensuring policy consistency, investing in infrastructure, and expanding educational and skill-building initiatives to meet evolving industry demands. India needs to proactively work to attract and retain investment aligned with its developmental goals in a global economic environment, especially those that help technological change.

The gross FDI figures may appear promising but they seem to hide more than they reveal. Rising disinvestments, shifting investment patterns and growing capital outflows reflect a deeper erosion of confidence in India's economic outlook. Further, the dominance of financial centres such as Singapore and Mauritius in India's FDI inflows suggests that much of this capital may be driven by tax strategies rather than productive investment. Moreover, traditional sources of industrial FDI such as the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom have pulled back on their involvement.

Services and rent-seeking sectors such as financial services, energy distribution and hospitality saw increased capital flow. Despite their contribution to GDP, such investments lack the broader multiplier effects typically associated with manufacturing, infrastructure or advanced technology. This shift is contributing to weaker long-term growth potential and reduced economic resilience.

India's macroeconomic stability is also closely tied to the health of its FDI ecosystem. FDI inflows serve as a source of capital, support the balance of payments and provide a cushion for the currency. As FDI net inflows decline, the implications for external account management and monetary policy flexibility become more concerning. The Reserve Bank of India has acknowledged this trend, noting that while rising outflows are in line with trends in other emerging economies, they also present risks that need to be managed carefully. Around half of India's FDI outflows are directed toward developed economies, attracted by favourable tax regimes, market stability, and access to strategic resources.

What needs to be done

If India seeks to lead as a global investment hub, it must look beyond headline FDI figures and focus on the quality, durability and strategic alignment of capital inflows. An overemphasis on gross figures neglecting their origin or economic impact risks masking deeper vulnerabilities. What the country truly needs is committed capital investment that builds domestic capability and furthers national priorities. Streamlined regulations, infrastructure upgrades, policy stability and renewed trust in institutions may help fulfil these priorities. Equally crucial is investing in human capital to attract high-value sectors such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and technology. India stands at the crossroads in the FDI conundrum.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mass petition on Gaza

The international petition on Gaza, published on September 4, 2025, and signed by more than 4,500 scientists, is unprecedented for many reasons. The signatories include the world's most important scientists and mathematicians today, including 14 Nobel laureates , five Fields medallists and 20 Breakthrough prize awardees. Though the petition has described its purpose as humanitarian, in its specific call for intervention by governments and international institutions, it is inevitably deeply political. This petition is likely to be more consequential, both for the large number of signatories from all countries, their great reputational renown, and also, the timing of its publication. The Palestine issue will be discussed in the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in the third and fourth weeks of this month. In the face of the genocidal situation in Gaza, several Western and G-7 nations that hitherto supported Israel unconditionally have announced that they will recognise the State of Palestine this September. In this background, it is possible, even likely, that the 80th UNGA will decide to initiate and enforce the kinds of measures that compelled South Africa to end apartheid in 1990.

Vivek Monteiro,
Mumbai

Trump's comments

India must treat Donald Trump's volte face as tactical noise and invest in resilient statecraft . His second term has swung between effusive praise for Prime Minister Modi and harsh tariffs on Indian exports, not to mention the dehumanising manner in which illegal Indian immigrants were deported. Today's "friendship" can quickly turn into tomorrow's pressure. This blow-hot-blow-cold approach is vintage Trump.

M. Jameel Ahmed,
Mysuru

Corrections & Clarifications

In an article, "Activist behind bars" ('Profiles' page, September 7, 2025), on Umar Khalid, a sentence should have read "... over his long incarceration" and not incarnation.

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GST 2.0 will empower young Indians

Suneeta Reddy

is Managing Director of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited

India's greatest strength is its people. With nearly two-thirds of the population under the age of 35 years, the country's economic engine is powered by aspiration, enterprise and consumption. This demographic dividend is not merely a statistic. It is the pulse of an economy that is increasingly youthful, ambitious and globally connected. GST 2.0 is a reform that directly responds to this advantage. By simplifying rates, reducing burdens on essentials and exempting services such as insurance, the new structure of GST 2.0 strengthens household purchasing power and supports the ambitions of young India.

India's household spending

Private consumption already accounts for over 60% of India's GDP, a proportion far higher than in many other large economies. This makes household spending the single-most powerful driver of national growth. When families save on taxes, even by a small margin, their disposable income increases. Multiplied across millions of households, these savings translate into significant demand for goods and services –from basic necessities to education, health care, housing and digital products. GST 2.0 unleashes this multiplier effect, ensuring that affordability at the micro-level translates into growth at the macro-level.

For young households balancing equated monthly instalments (EMI), health-care expenses and education costs, the reform provides genuine relief. Reduced taxes on essentials ease monthly financial pressure, while exemptions on critical services such as insurance encourage a culture of protection and planning. For many families in urban and semi-urban areas, the reform could be the difference between postponing an aspiration and achieving it sooner. By making everyday life slightly more affordable, GST 2.0 makes long-term goals such as home ownership, education or health security more attainable.

The exemption of GST on health and life insurance premiums is particularly meaningful. India's insurance penetration has historically been low, and cost has been a major barrier. For a young workforce juggling EMIs, student loans and discretionary spending, insurance often felt like an avoidable burden. Removing the tax burden changes that equation. It sends a clear message that financial protection is not just an individual choice but a national priority. Over time, this measure will accelerate insurance penetration, strengthen household resilience and reduce the vulnerability of families to sudden medical or financial shocks. In the process, it creates a healthier, more secure society – one where risk is shared, not borne by individuals alone.

The reform is equally significant for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which together employ over 110 million people and contribute substantially to India's GDP. For decades, compliance complexities and uneven tax structures have discouraged many small firms from formalising. GST 2.0 simplifies these processes, reducing friction and encouraging wider participation in the formal economy. For young entrepreneurs, this translates into easier access to credit, greater visibility in supply chains and stronger confidence in building businesses that can scale. By easing the path for MSMEs, the reform empowers the very segment that provides jobs and opportunities to young India.

Youth-driven consumption creates a virtuous cycle. When affordability increases, demand rises. Rising demand encourages new investments. Investments generate employment. Employment fuels further consumption. This cycle, once strengthened, becomes self-sustaining. GST 2.0 nurtures this cycle by aligning fiscal policy with the realities of a youthful and ambitious nation. It recognises that consumption is not merely a private activity but the collective force that shapes the country's growth trajectory.

Just as important as affordability is predictability. A tax system that is transparent, consistent, and stable provides confidence to young professionals planning their financial futures. Entrepreneurs too benefit from knowing that their compliance costs will not fluctuate unpredictably.

GST 2.0, with its two-tier structure, addresses this need for predictability. It reassures citizens that India's economic journey will be supported by fair and transparent governance. That trust is as important as the immediate financial relief delivered by lower rates.

Few countries have enjoyed a demographic opportunity on the scale that India does today. But such advantages can also become risks if not properly harnessed. A young population without opportunities can quickly turn disillusioned. GST 2.0 is a step toward ensuring that India's youth dividend is not squandered. By aligning fiscal reform with the aspirations of a young population, it creates the conditions for inclusive, consumption-led and sustainable growth.

A new foundation

As India moves towards becoming a mature, consumption-driven economy, GST 2.0 provides the fiscal architecture to channel youthful aspiration into national momentum. It is a reform that reduces financial barriers, encourages protection, supports entrepreneurs and builds trust. Most importantly, it is not only a reform for today's households but also a foundation for the India that this generation will build. By empowering young India to spend, save, and secure its future, GST 2.0 strengthens the very core of the country's economic promise.

The reform will align fiscal policy with the aspirations of a young population

Nilgiris tea and the brewing of a crisis

The cost price issue of green tea leaves continues to haunt small growers

STATE OF PLAY

Yukesh Saravanan

At the start of the current millennium, the Nilgiris saw a turn of events that were most unlikely in its glorious history. Plantation farmers, most of them Badagas, revolted against the government as the price for Green Tea Leaves (GTL) had dwindled. Initially restrained, the protest soon turned violent when three public buses were set on fire. The centenary celebrations of the famed Ooty Flower show (1999) was also cancelled following growing resentment by local planters. The situation was in danger of spiralling out of control.

To address the crisis, a one-day seminar, called the "Future of Tea in the Nilgiris", was organised on September 4, 2000, by the 'Save Nilgiris Campaign', after a signal from the Chief Minister's Secretariat. Every stakeholder across the industry came together to draw attention to the plight of the industry and discuss paths to take. It is unfortunate that a quarter of a century later, the remedy remains elusive.

Participants flagged the reasons for the price decline and highlighted the need for reforms. The facts were there for all to see: an over-reliance on Russian exports, poor quality management, auction gimmicks, adulteration and local market negligence had together resulted in a crisis. From the late 1970s, Nilgiris tea had overwhelming market support in the erstwhile USSR. The land cover of this plantation crop in the Nilgiris rose by 36% between 1985 and 1995 and small tea growers welcomed the flow of unprecedented wealth and income.

Then things changed. The collapse of the USSR and the devaluation of the rouble by 30% worsened the existing situation for small growers. They were reeling under high production costs, which were proportional to the quality of the product. An excess of factories in weak feeder areas reduced GTL quality. The total capacity of tea factories in the Nilgiris was more than double that of crop production. Though tea experts endorsed the well-oiled functioning of the auction system, unhealthy practices began to disrupt operations at the Coonoor auction centre. Some producers had taken money in advance from brokers, pushing them to supply made tea at fixed rates. From 1990, sales at Coonoor rose while those at other centres across India declined. Yet average prices stayed the lowest. This disparity highlighted the need to streamline quality and trading.

According to the Tea Board of India, the Nilgiris tea industry covers about 46,481 small tea growers with an assessed plantation area of 34,408.85 hectares. The main demands of these growers include a minimum GTL price, a base auction price, and recognition of this plantation crop as an essential commodity under the Ministry of Agriculture. Currently, tea remains under the ambit of the Ministry of Commerce. Though the health benefits of tea are well known, trade interests have ensured that tea is treated as an item under commerce. Government schemes and subsidies have failed to deliver the goods. The call by the United Planters' Association of Southern India, the apex body, to go in for intercropping has not gained ground. The situation demands renewed trust among battered growers.

To overcome this persistent cost price crisis, growers and producers must implement strategies that result in a win-win situation. Progressive small tea growers must look at innovation and mechanisation during the phases of plucking and pruning. They must look at self-employment to avoid heavy labour costs. Most bought leaf factories have been successful in branding and direct trade, in-line with the outcomes of the seminar. However, they should also explore tea exports to CIS countries and encourage sales in untapped domestic markets.

Of late, second- and third-generation planters have begun to move to the IT sector, and are hiring labour. The reluctance of next-generation producers to target CIS markets is a result of apathy or due to a lack of global marketing competence.

The government-run INDCOSERVE and TANTEA could also lead the way by becoming price leaders, as they have access to one-fourth of GTL procurements among bought leaf factories. There is great potential for value-added products as the Nilgiris is capable of producing some of the best tea in the world – the "champagne among teas".

Yukesh Saravanan is a member of the Nilgiri Documentation Centre, The Nilgiris. His work focuses on the environment, indigenous communities and local history

No evidence of disproportionate Muslim deletions in Bihar SIR

Gender- and reason-wise breakdowns of Bihar's deleted electoral roll show no religious bias

DATA POINT

Areena Arora
Srinivasan Ramani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

An analysis of electors deleted during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar this year suggests that is no clear evidence that Muslims were disproportionately impacted. Data show that 18.4% of the names deleted in the exercise were Muslims, close to their population share of 17.7% in the State as recorded in the 2022 Bihar Caste Census (**Chart 1**). The conclusion is based on an analysis of elector names in the deleted lists by *The Hindu*'s data team. To identify Muslim electors, we implemented character-based machine learning models developed by Rachana and Sugat Chaturvedi in their 2023 paper, "It's All in the Name: A Character-Based Approach to Infer Religion". The results of the machine learning model were randomly checked manually to ensure accuracy.

About 52.8 lakh of the 65 lakh names deleted were considered for this analysis. In 10 constituencies, the ECI had released the data only as image PDFs, which could not be accurately scraped, while in a few others, technical reasons prevented the analysis.

Of the 52.8 lakh names analysed, the model was able to identify with very high probability that about 9.7 lakh (18.4%) were Muslims. Moreover, a reason-wise breakdown of Muslims and non-Muslims deleted from the Bihar electoral roll showed no significant variation. For instance, 44% of deleted Muslim electors were removed because they had "permanently shifted," a share that was nearly identical among non-Muslims too. A similar analysis of deletions under other categories – such as "deceased," "untraceable," and "duplicate enrolments" – also showed that the shares among Muslim and non-Muslim voters were largely similar (**Chart 2**).

A gender-wise breakdown of Muslims and non-Muslims deleted from the rolls also showed no notable variation. Of all deleted Muslim electors, 56% were female, compared with 55% among non-Muslims (**Chart 3**). A booth-wise analysis of deletions showed that in about 490 of the more than 82,400 booths for which data were analysed, all the deleted electors were Muslims. However, a random check of 10 such booths showed that almost all electors in these booths were Muslims to begin with – meaning that all deletions being of Muslims was not an anomaly.

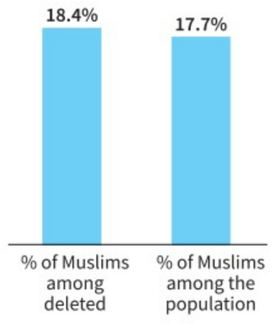
Among districts, nearly 65% of deleted electors were Muslims in Kishanganj – the highest share across the State. Notably, the 2011 Census recorded Muslims as 68% of Kishanganj's population, a figure closely aligned with the deletion share. The share of Muslims in deleted electors was higher than 30% in Purnia, Araria and Katihar districts. And these are the next three districts for Muslim population share in State in the Census. Taken together, the district-wise analysis shows that Muslim deletions were broadly in line with their population share. The data indicates that the share of Muslims deleted is not disproportionate to their population size – no matter how the data are sliced.

In Kochadhaman (Kishanganj district) and Amour (Purnia district), more than 70% of electors deleted were Muslims. In the Assembly constituencies of Bahadurganj, Jokihat, Baisi, and Balrampur, the share was between 60% and 70%. In Kishanganj, Thakurganj, Pranpur, and Araria, over 50% to 60% of deleted electors were Muslims. **Map 4** shows the constituency-wise share of Muslims among those deleted in the SIR. The analysis also highlighted booths with a high concentration of Muslims and mapped their distribution across Assembly constituencies. In the Araria seat, all deletions in 25 of the 394 booths were Muslims– showing that in these booths, most electors were Muslims.

No religious bias in deletions

The data for the charts were sourced from the Bihar CEO's website and the Bihar caste Census

Chart 1: Shows the share of Muslims among elector deletions and among the population



Map 4: Shows the percentage of Muslim electors deleted across Bihar's Assembly constituencies. The darker the colour, the higher the share of Muslims deleted

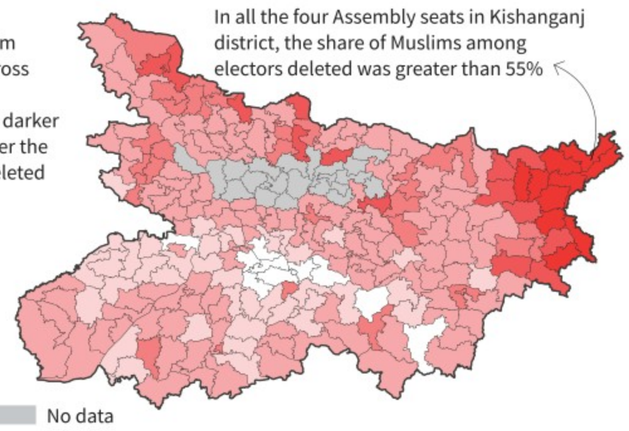


Chart 2: Shows the reason-wise share of deletions among Muslims and non-Muslims

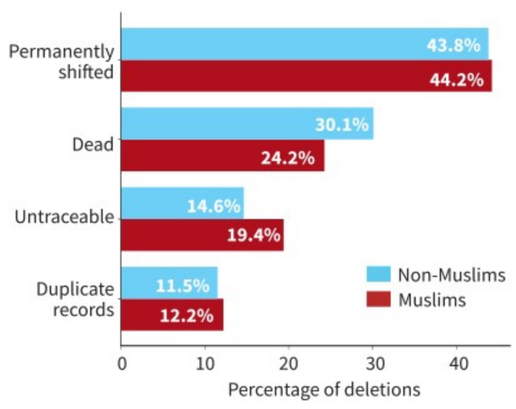
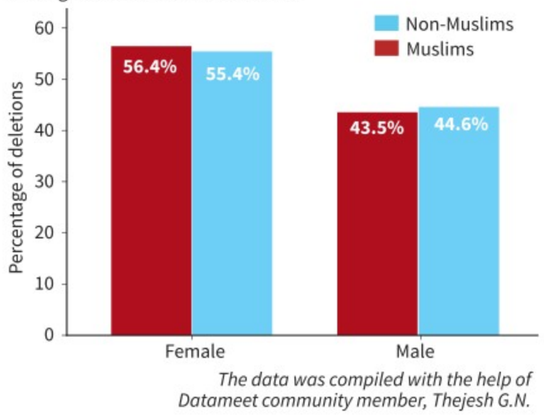


Chart 3: Shows the gender-wise share of deletions among Muslims and non-Muslims



The data was compiled with the help of Datameet community member, Thejesh G.N.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 8, 1975

Nationalisation of Text-books

MADRAS, Sept. 7

Mr. T.A. Pai, Union Minister for Industry and Civil Supplies yesterday made out a case for nationalisation of text-books. If a boy moved out of a district or a State he would have to discard his valuable textbooks because different texts were followed. Also, they were changed in a "whimsical" fashion. In a poor country like India, one could not afford the "luxury of throwing away books", he said, while inaugurating the extension of the Rajasthan Youth Association's Book Bank to engineering students.

The Minister said the fact that the 20-point economic programme announced by the Prime Minister included what might appear to be "small schemes" like book banks and provision of cheaper text-books clearly showed that students' welfare was of "paramount importance for a developing nation like ours". It was the primary responsibility of those who had had the opportunity of higher education to see that the less-fortunate ones got a similar chance. Otherwise, the society would have a lop-sided development and equality of opportunity would remain just a slogan. "In any country, boys and girls could be either an asset or a liability, depending on whether or not opportunities are created for them to come up," he said.

Emphasising the need for making students realise and imbibe India's culture, Mr. Pai said the goal of our education was not to create a materialistic society of the western type. "We have been brought up in a tradition which believed that is much more credible than to acquire and that it is a privilege to be in a position to give rather than take." If the educational system did not prepare the young for that condition of mind, the inevitable result would be recklessness of the youth and thorough disappointment and failure in life.

Mr. Pai commended the Association's book-bank project, which, since its inception in 1964, had helped over 5,000 students.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 8, 1925

News And Notes

The Inspector-General of Forests to the Government of India, accompanied by Mr. Tireman, Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras, will inspect the Nilambur Forests in the course of this week and join the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib and the Hon'ble Mr. T.E. Moir, at Olavakote, on the morning of the 15th instant, and proceed to Chennat Nair Forest.

From Page One

Russia hits Kyiv in largest air attack

"We are counting on a strong response from America," he said in his evening address. He said that said that four persons were killed and 44 wounded. Mr. Zelenskyy also said he spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron about the attack. "Together with France, we are preparing new measures to strengthen our defence," he said. Mr. Macron accused Russia of "striking indiscriminately" and said Moscow "is locking itself ever deeper into the logic of war and terror."

GST reforms will boost economy: Sitharaman

The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4% of the GDP, or ₹15.69 lakh crore.

Last week, the Goods and Service Tax Council approved a two-tier structure of 5% and 18% and a 40% slab for the tax regime. Calling the GST overhaul a "people's reform", Ms. Sitharaman said, "This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140 crore people. There is no individual in this country who is untouched by GST. The poorest of the poor also have something small that they buy, touched by GST." Asked if there can be upward revision in the GDP projection, she said it was "very much possible". The Economic Survey tabled in Parliament in January had projected real economic growth of 6.3-6.8%.

Sri Lankan refugees not eligible for LTV: official

A 1986 letter by the Ministry to Chief Secretaries asks the States to not "entertain the applications of Sri Lanka refugees for the grant of Indian citizenship". It states that the Government of India received enquiries regarding "national status of these Sri Lanka nationals who came to India as refugees".

"After careful consideration, the GoI have come to the conclusion that no Sri Lanka refugees who came to India in July 1983 or after should be naturalised/registered under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955, and Citizenship Rules, 1956," it says.

The directions are still operational. On September 2, the MHA notified the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 that was passed by the Parliament in April to repeal and replace four laws which governed the entry, stay, and exit of foreigners, and immigration and passport rules, including the Passport Act and Foreigners Act. The notified order exempted "registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals who have taken shelter in India upto the 9th January, 2015" from the provisions of sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of Section 3 (requirement of passport or other travel document or visa) of the 2025 Act.

The September 2 notification also exempted undocumented members of six minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan from penal provisions and possible deportation if they entered India without passports or visas, or with expired travel documents, before December 31, 2024.

While the six communities will be able to apply for LTVs, making them eligible to apply for citizenship after at least 11 years of continuous stay in India, Sri Lankan Tamils will not be eligible for the same.

Members of six minority communities – Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians – from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, who enter India on valid travel documents "seeking permanent settlement in India with a view to acquire Indian citizenship" are eligible for LTVs.

Antony Arulraj, an activist closely associated with issues faced by Sri Lankan Tamils since 1990, said that the MHA had been lenient in setting January 9, 2015 as the cut-off date, close to six years after the end of civil war in Sri Lanka."The notification makes India a safe haven for Sri Lankan Tamils who took refuge before 2015. Those who wish to stay back can do so without fear of being branded as illegal immigrants," he said.

According to the MHA's report of 2023-24, 3,04,269 Sri Lankan refugees entered India in various phases between July 1983 and August 2012.

Punjab floods leave farmers stranded between two seasons

Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Mansa, Ferozepur among districts hit; farmer outfits say 30% of paddy crop has been ruined, with the floods leaving the land unsuitable for sowing winter wheat as well; they seek compensation of ₹70,000 an acre, loan waiver

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Massive loss: Farmers look at paddy crops submerged in floodwaters after a rise in water level of the Ravi river following heavy rain at a village near Ramdas on August 28. AFP

With floodwaters marooning numerous Punjab villages, 62-year-old Amarjeet Singh from Kalanuar village in Gurdaspur district faces concerns beyond his immediate paddy crop losses – the prospect of sowing wheat in the upcoming winter season now appears to be a daunting challenge.

"My entire crop has been submerged under flood water for days now and I have lost any hope of it recovering even if the water recedes. Even now, there's around three to four feet of water in the field. The flood water from the Ravi river entered my field, bringing muck and debris, making the chance of crop recovery a bleak possibility," said Mr. Singh, who, along with his nephew, has sown paddy in around 60 acres of leased panchayat land.

Gurdaspur has been among the worst flood-hit districts, along with Amritsar, Mansa, Ferozepur, and Fazilka, which together account for the bulk of agricultural losses.

'Months to rebuild'

"My loss is not limited to the current damage by floods," said Mr. Singh. "I am now concerned about the sowing of wheat, which I would be doing in the winter season. I am not sure how much time this water will take to recede. After it recedes, it will take months to rebuild the farm for cropping. We usually sow wheat in early November here, but it appears to be difficult this time. Late sowing would eventually result in low yield, which again means loss," he said.

Harjeet Singh Kalon, the Gurdaspur district president of the Democratic Kisan Sabha, expressed concern about the severe agricultural losses. "Almost the entire village land was submerged under flood water following breaches from the Ravi river a few days ago. Crops in thousands of acres have been destroyed, and we urge the government to immediately provide financial assistance to the sufferers," he said.

This is among the worst flood situations that Punjab has faced in recent decades, with almost 2,000 villages affected across all districts in the State. The rain has left the Sutlej, Ravi, and Beas rivers in spate. Almost four lakh people have been impacted, with 46 reported deaths till September 6. Crops on 1.72 lakh hectares have been damaged in 18 of the State's 23 districts.

'National disaster'

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has urged the Centre to declare a "national disaster" situation in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Haryana.

Farmer outfits have demanded an immediate release of compensation. "At least ₹70,000 per acre compensation should be given for all damaged paddy crops. Farmers have lost their livestock as well. Paddy is the key kharif crop in Punjab, and floods have damaged at least 30% of the crop across the State. The muck in paddy fields has ruined the crop in thousands of acres," said Jagmohan Singh, general secretary, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Dakonda).

Monsoon losses cross ₹4,000 crore in Himachal

Press Trust of India
SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses to the tune of ₹4,079 crore following cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rain from June 20 till September 7, officials said on Sunday.

So far, 366 people have died in rain-related incidents and road accidents in the State. Out of the 366 people, 203 died in rain-related incidents, including 42 deaths in landslides, 17 in cloudbursts and nine in flash floods, and 41 are still missing, while accidents claimed 163 deaths, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre.

A total of 6,025 houses and 455 shops/factories have been fully or partially damaged. In all, 135 major landslides, 95 flash floods and 45 cloudbursts have ravaged parts of the State since June 20.

A total of 869 roads, including three National Highways are blocked for traffic and 1,572 power transformers and 389 water supply schemes were disrupted.

The State received an average rainfall of 943.2 mm from June 1 to September 6, an excess of 46%.

As per revised pact, future talks will focus on U.T. with legislature: Kuki-Zo groups

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The groups accuse the govt.'s Press Information Bureau of putting a spin on the agreement

The Kuki-Zo insurgent groups that signed a suspension of operations (SoO) pact with the Manipur government and the Union Home Ministry on September 2 accused the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of putting a spin on the signed official agreement, which has caused confusion among the people.

It said that following the renewed SoO agreement, future talks between the SoO group and government's representatives would focus on the demand for Union Territory (UT) with legislature for the Kuki-Zo areas in Manipur.

The two groups – Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United Peoples Front (UPF) – said in a statement on Sunday that the PIB's aberration has seriously upset the Kuki-Zo sentiments to a point of affecting the mood over the much-awaited Prime Minister's visit to Churachandpur on September 13.

"The recently concluded MHA and SoO extension agreement for one year, effective from the date signed September 4, 2025, at New Delhi clearly states, 'SoO Agreement shall be followed by tripartite dialogue with KNO and UPF to pave the way for a negotiated political settlement under the Constitution of India in a time bound manner.' The PIB has put a spin on the signed official agreement as follows: "Among other provisions, the revised ground rules reiterated: Need for a negotiated solution to bring peace and stability to the State of Manipur." This twist by the PIB does not figure anywhere in the SoO agreement signed between the Home Ministry and the SoO group, the statement by the groups said.

The statement said that before May 3, 2023, when ethnic violence erupted in the State, the SoO group's demand was local autonomy by way of Territorial Council within Manipur. Post-violence, the demand changed to UT with legislature, which was submitted at the SoO meeting on September 1, 2023.

Russia, India, China aware of mutual interests: Lavrov

Press Trust of India
MOSCOW

Russia, India and China are aware of their common interests in several sectors and there is an overt trend of developing mutual partnership, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday.

Mr. Lavrov was referring to the recent bonhomie displayed by the leaders of the three countries at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin last week. Triple handshake and huddle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the summit hogged headlines.

It even prompted U.S. President Donald Trump, in a social media post, to lament the loss of India and Russia to "deepest and darkest" China.

Sergei Lavrov

"It is a demonstration that three great powers, representing three great civilisations, are aware of their common interests in a number of areas," Mr. Lavrov said.

According to Mr. Lavrov, the common interests of the three countries lie in developing the economy, solving social problems, and improving the living standards of the population.

Trump aide slams India over Russian oil purchases

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro has once again criticised India for continuing to procure Russian oil.

In the past few weeks, Mr. Navarro has made a series of attacks on New Delhi for its energy ties with Russia.

"India buys Russia oil solely to profiteer. It didn't buy any before Russia invaded Ukraine. Indian govt. spin machine moving high tilt. Stop killing Ukrainians. Stop taking American jobs," Mr. Navarro said in a post on social media platform X on Saturday.

India has been maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics and has rejected Mr. Navarro's claims as "inaccurate and misleading".

Three from Bengaluru drown in Kundapur

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Three persons from Bengaluru drowned at Gopadi beach in Kundapur taluk of Udupi district on Sunday. The police gave names of the deceased as Lokesh, Gowtham and Ashish.

The police said the three were part of a group from Bengaluru which visited the beach on Sunday. Four members of the group were caught in the cross current and were washed away. Fire and Emergency Services personnel and a team of divers led by Ishwar Malpe joined the Kundapura police in the rescue operation.

All the four were pulled out. While two of them were found dead, another died on the way to hospital. The fourth person is recovering, the police said.

A case was registered in the Kundapur Town Police station.

NC, PDP condemn 'detention of locals' in Hazratbal incident

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The ruling National Conference (NC) on Sunday condemned the police's reported move to detain over 26 local people for defiling the National Emblem at the Hazratbal dargah, while senior BJP leaders sought stern police action against those who damaged the national symbol.

"I strongly condemn this act of operational retribution at a time when statesmanship demanded an approach of reconciliation and empathy from the administration," NC MP Aga Syed Ruhullah said.

NC chief Farooq Abdullah condemned the J&K Waqf Board's move. "That board (with the National Emblem) should not have been put up there. This shrine was built with the money of the people of J&K. It does not belong to anyone, it belongs to Allah," Dr. Abdullah said.

Peoples Democratic Party leader Iltija Mufti said, "It's absurd that the J&K Police have filed an FIR knowing well that religious sentiments were deliberately hurt at the dargah. The Waqf comprises entirely of Muslims yet they showed utter disdain and insensitivity," she said.

Senior BJP leader and the Leader of the Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma said the act was "a direct assault on the dignity of the National Emblem and, by extension, on the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India".

The J&K Police neither denied nor confirmed the detentions in the case.

Judges' appointment, Bill to remove PM, CM dominate law symposium

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Pinky Anand, former Additional Solicitor-General; Pradeep Rai, senior advocate; and Sree Sudha, Dean, School of Law, SRMIST, at the Lexposium 2025 on Saturday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

It was a split verdict as eminent jurists put forth their arguments on procedures for judges' appointments and other topics, including the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill, at a day-long symposium here.

The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), which was brought in by a Constitution amendment in 2014 and subsequently struck down by the Supreme Court, was one of the focal points of the deliberations at Lexposium 2025, organised by the SRM School of Law, in association with *The Hindu*, on Saturday.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the court had ruled against the NJAC since it found that judicial independence was part of the basic structure. "There is no such thing as a majoritarianism simpliciter in a Constitutional republic," he said. In the current political scenario, Mr. Singhvi rued what he called the weakening of non-institutional pillars of Indian democracy, including secularism, and federalism; and the weakening of non-institutional virtues, including fraternity; besides the weakening of institutional pillars, including the judiciary and media.

Former Additional Solicitor-General Pinky Anand said there was a need to bring accountability in both the selection and removal of judges. Senior advocate Nalin Kohli, however, said he would prefer a balanced approach to the issue, and that the same system had produced excellent judges and questionable judges as well.

Senior advocate Pradeep Rai said any system replacing the Collegium should be free from political interference. "The umpire has to be neutral," Mr. Rai said.

On the Bill seeking the removal of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and Ministers if they are imprisoned for 30 days, Mr. Singhvi said the motive was to control, overawe, threaten, intimidate, scare, and create an ambience against everybody who was in any way opposed to the ruling party, including its allies.

Speaking on the topic "Realising Justice for All", Additional Solicitor-General Satya Pal Jain said the fear of abuse of a law was no ground to challenge the validity of the law.

Over eight lakh youth given govt. jobs: U.P. CM

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that in the past eight years, 8.5 lakh youth in the State had been provided government jobs, with recruitment processes becoming transparent and merit-based, unlike in previous regimes when "so much money was taken that they could not even look into the eyes of candidates".

"Today there is a shower of jobs in the State, both in government and private sectors. The youth selected through fair recruitment are serving with honesty and energy," Mr. Adityanath said at an event to hand over appointment letters to new instructors.

He said that before 2017, when the State was labelled as "*Bimaru*" (sick), youth faced an identity crisis and U.P. was seen as a barrier to development.

TRAI disallowed messaging on vote theft, says Congress

Party says the authority rejected an application for sending out text messages to its Maharashtra cadre with a YouTube link to a documentary on how the 2024 Assembly election was 'stolen'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has rejected an application by the Congress for sending out text messages to its Maharashtra cadre with the link to a documentary on how the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly election was "stolen", the party said on Sunday.

Praveen Chakravarty, who heads the Congress's data analytics department, said on Sunday that the party wanted to send text messages (SMSs) to its Maharashtra cadre with the link to the YouTube documentary *How the MH 2024 election was stolen*, and an application was filed with the TRAI for approval.

However, the TRAI rejected permission to send the messages, calling them "protest content", he said.

> How is there such perfect synchronisation between Home Ministry, Election Commission and Telecom regulator to suppress? Does one need more telltale signs of guilt of Maharashtra election fraud than such coordinated moves by various arms of the government to suppress and hide information?
>
> **PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY**
> Head of Congress's data analytics department

"How is there such perfect synchronisation between Home Ministry, Election Commission and Telecom regulator to suppress?" Mr. Chakravarty wrote on X.

"Does one need more telltale signs of guilt of Maharashtra election fraud than such coordinated moves by various arms of the government to suppress and hide information?" he added.

He also shared the screenshot of the message sent to the party by authorities, rejecting its application on the grounds that it was "content related to protest".

'Who wields control?'

Sharing Mr. Chakravarty's post, the Congress whip in the Lok Sabha, Manickam Tagore, said on X, "Who controls this censorship chain?"

"Amit bhai [Amit Shah], if Maharashtra elections weren't stolen, why are you so scared of a YouTube link? Ashwini ji [Ashwini Vaishnav], since when did TRAI become the BJP's IT Cell? Mr. Gnaneshwar [Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar], your signature on this rejection note is proof of regulatory capture," Mr. Tagore said.

The Congress whip said "suppressing SMS won't suppress truth". "Blocking Congress workers won't block democracy. The more you censor, the louder people will ask: What exactly are you hiding about MH 2024 elections?" he said.

There was no immediate reaction from the TRAI on the claims made by the Congress.

NDA, INDIA blocs to train MPs on voting procedure for Vice-President election

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two days ahead of the Vice-President election, the ruling NDA and the Opposition INDIA bloc have started preparations to "train" their MPs on the voting procedure. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ministers and NDA MPs participated in a two-day workshop that began here on Sunday. The INDIA bloc will hold a mock polling session for its MPs on Monday.

The BJP workshop also passed a resolution on the GST reforms. The resolution said the reforms, guided by the Prime Minister's conviction, had further simplified the system and placed the citizen at its heart.

The resolution said, "Rates on essentials such as food and medicines as well as prices of electronic goods have been significantly reduced; distortions such as inverted duties are being corrected; and procedures for small businesses, exporters and start-ups are being streamlined. These reforms reflect the goal of our government to bring ease in the lives of our citizens, empower traders and reinforce India's path to self-reliance."

Taking stock: Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the workshop in the Parliament House Complex on Sunday. ANI

Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has cancelled the dinner that he had planned to host for the Opposition MPs on Monday. "...keeping in view the havoc and misery created by floods in Punjab and in various parts of the country, a considered view has been taken to cancel the dinner scheduled to be hosted in honour of our combined candidate Justice (Retd.) B. Sudershan Reddy," Mr. Kharge said

The BJP too had cancelled a dinner for its MPs.

NDA will form the government in Bihar once again: Nitish

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Lashing out at the Bihar Opposition on Sunday, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar warned people not to fall in their trap. He was addressing an NDA worker's conference in Siwan.

"Earlier the situation was very bad. The Congress and RJD government did not do any work. I was with them for a few days, but when they started messing up, I separated from them," Mr. Kumar said.

He said "the BJP and JD(U) are old allies, and we are working together for the development of the State and the country. We will always be together. Since the NDA government was formed on November 24, 2005, we have been engaged in developing Bihar".

He said rapid development was taking place in all areas and special attention had been given to the education and health sectors. Roads and bridges had been constructed on a large scale and 10 lakh jobs had been provided to the youth. Mr. Kumar praised the Union government for providing full support to aid in the development of Bihar.

Nitish Kumar

He pointed out that work had been done for all communities, let they be Hindu, Muslim, upper caste, backward, extremely backward, Dalit, or Mahadalit.

"I request all the workers to go door-to-door and tell people about the development of Bihar. Elections will be held in a few days, so all of you should remain active. Once again, we will form the government after the Bihar elections, so you all should give your support," Mr. Kumar said.

He also laid the foundation stone of nine developmental schemes estimated at ₹558.35 crore in Siwan district.

Thin vote margins in the past make Opposition wary of SIR in Bihar

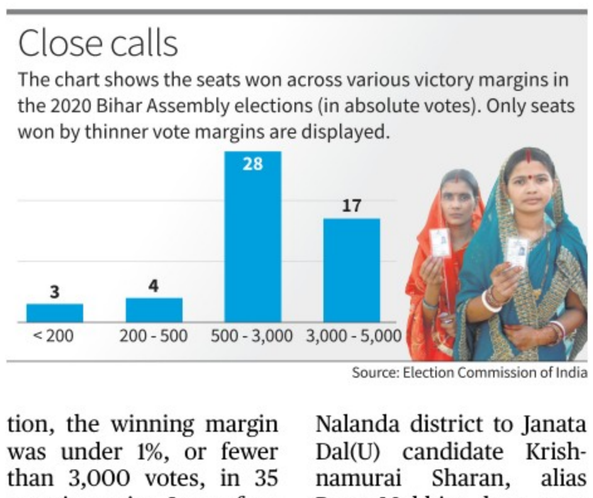
Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Opposition parties have been on an aggressive campaign in Bihar against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls especially with the results of the past elections rankling them. They lost out to rivals by thin margins – one of these by just 12 votes – in several constituencies in the 2020 Assembly election.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav recently said the results in some 35 seats could be affected in the upcoming election if even just 1% of the voters were to be removed from the electoral rolls through the SIR. The Assembly has 243 seats.

According to Mr. Yadav, a deletion of 1% of voters would mean removal of 7.9 lakh voters from the 7.9-crore strong electorate in the State. The party says it would result in approximately 3,251 voters being disenfranchised in every constituency.

According to data from the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), in the 2020 Assembly election, the winning margin was under 1%, or fewer than 3,000 votes, in 35 constituencies. It was fewer than 5,000 in 52 constituencies.


Close calls
The chart shows the seats won across various victory margins in the 2020 Bihar Assembly elections (in absolute votes). Only seats won by thinner vote margins are displayed.
3
4
28
17
< 200
200 - 500
500 - 3,000
3,000 - 5,000
Source: Election Commission of India

In three constituencies, the margin was fewer than 200, and in four, fewer than 500. In four constituencies each, the margin was fewer than 1,000, 1,500, 2,000, 3,000, and 3,500. Similarly, in five, it was fewer than 2,500.

An analysis published by *The Hindu* on November 17, 2020, a week after the results were declared, showed the NDA had won 21 seats by a margin of less than 2.5% votes, and the Opposition had won 22 such seats.

In the Opposition side, Shakti Singh Yadav of the RJD lost the Hilsa seat in Nalanda district to Janata Dal(U) candidate Krishnamurai Sharan, alias Prem Mukhiya, by a margin of just 12 votes. In Chakia, Savitri Devi of the RJD lost to Independent candidate Sumit Kumar Singh by 581 votes.

The RJD lost Raniganj by 2,304 votes, where the party's Avinash Manglam was defeated by the JD(U)'s Achmit Rishidev. In Ramgarh, the party was just saved by 189 votes against a BSP candidate.

The Congress's Jitendra Singh faced defeat against the JD(U)'s Jayant Raj by 3,114 votes in Amarpur. In Belhar, the RJD's Ramdeo Yadav lost to the JD(U)'s Manoj Yadav by 2,473 votes. In Bachwara, the Communist Party of India's Abdhesh Kumar Rai lost to the BJP candidate by 484 votes. In Ara, the BJP's Amrendra Pratap Singh defeated CPI(ML) Liberation candidate Aqyamuddin Ansari by 3,002 votes.

Ruling bloc too affected

The ruling coalition also faced defeats in many seats by thin margins. The JD (U)'s Narendra Kumar Singh, alias Bogo Singh, was defeated by the united Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) candidate Raj Kumar Singh by a mere 333 votes.

The BJP's Rohit Pandey lost from Bhagalpur to the Congress's Ajit Sharma by 1,113. In Bahadurpur, the JD (U)'s Madan Sahani secured victory by 2,629 votes against the RJD's Ramesh Choudhary.

The Vikassheel Insaan Party, led by Mukesh Sahani, which was part of the NDA in 2020 and now with the Opposition, won Alinagar by defeating the RJD candidate by 3,101 votes.

In Tikari, Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) candidate Anil Kumar defeated Suman Kumar of the Congress by a margin of 2,630 votes. In Bhorey, JD (U)'s Sunil Kumar emerged winner by defeating CPI (ML)(L)'s Jitendra Paswan by 462 votes.

Guest house staffer accuses Chhattisgarh Minister of assault

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Kedar Kashyap, Chhattisgarh Cabinet Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, allegedly assaulted and verbally abused a staff member of a government-owned guest house in Jagdalpur over a minor issue on Saturday evening.

The Congress has sought a public apology from the BJP. Mr. Kashyap has denied the allegation.

Khitendra Pandey, a 36-year-old Class 4 employee who has been working at the Jagdalpur circuit house in Bastar district for the past two decades, submitted a police complaint stating that the Minister had thrashed him after accusing him of not unlocking one of the rooms meant for accommodation.

"Kedar Kashyap abused me... and picked up a shoe. He held me by the collar and assaulted me brutally. He slapped me a few times with a lot of force. I had no knowledge about the room and later found that three rooms were open," Mr. Pandey said.

"The BJP should at least take the resignation of the Minister... he should also apologise publicly," former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel wrote on X.

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Last date & Time of Bid upload	:	Upto **10.30 A.M** on **25.09.2025**
Opening of Bids online	:	At **11.15 A.M** on **25.09.2025**

Managing Director
(Tender Inviting Authority)
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Kancheepuram

Place : Kancheepuram
Date : 03.09.2025
DIPR/ 4926 /TENDER/2025

Dream of Ram Temple is fulfilled, Mathura next: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statement that the Sangh Parivar would not take part in movements for temples in Mathura and Kashi, but that it would not stop its workers from participating, the BJP's official X handle has posted a statement that the dream of the Ram Temple has been fulfilled, and now it is the turn of Mathura-Vrindavan.

The party quoted an interview given by Baba Bageshwar to a news channel, saying Mathura-Vrindavan is next.

"Even Lord Ram has been enthroned; now Krishna Kanhaiya will take his seat... Baba Bageshwar praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that today faith and tradition are being respected in the country. The dream of the Ram Temple has been fulfilled, now it is the turn of Mathura-Vrindavan," the BJP said on X.

RSS chief had suggested Muslims give away their claim over Shahi Eidgah in Mathura, Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi

The RSS chief said in Delhi on August 29 that the Sangh would not participate in any of the temple movements, either in Mathura or Kashi. However, he said the RSS would not stop its volunteers if they wanted to join the "temple cause".

"I must clarify that the Sangh actively participated in the Ram Mandir movement and took it to a crescendo, but now, it will not directly participate in any further movements related to temples. ...but the sentiments of Hindu society regarding Mathura and Kashi must be respected, as in the minds of the community, Kashi, Mathura, and Ayodhya have deep significance – two are birthplaces, and one is a place of residence. It is natural for Hindu society to express that urge," Mr. Bhagwat said.

He suggested that "in the cases involving the Shahi Eidgah in Mathura, and the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, the 'other side' (Muslims) can give away its claim and hand over the same to Hindus, since it is a matter of 'just three temples' ... there can be a little effort from the other side also. This will be a big step towards brotherhood."

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, PUBLIC HEALTH, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Invitation For Bids (IFB) Dtd.03.09.2025

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Approx.) Rs.inLakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding From	To
1.	Laying of DI pipe from Intake to Dedgaon and CWR to Zonal Reservoir in connection to the Work, Augmentation of Water Supply System along with Ancillary Works for Kantabanji Town under AMRUT 2.0 SWAP-III including O&M for 5 Years	EICPH-03/ 2025-26	1009.94	'A' Class & Special Class	12 (Twelve) Months	11.00 Hrs. of 10.09.2025	17.00 Hrs. of 03.10.2025
2.	Construction of CWR at Panchamahala to receive 13 MLD Clear Water from Mega Project of RWS&S and Laying of Supply Main to different Zonal Reservoirs, Angul Town under State Plan BASUDHA 2024-25	EICPH-04/ 2025-26	1085.27	'A' Class & Special Class	12 (Twelve) Months	11.00 Hrs. of 12.09.2025	17.00 Hrs. of 04.10.2025

* Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid : The Engineer-In-Chief (PH), Office of The Engineer-in-Chief, PH, 1st Floor, Unnati Bhawan, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751007. Phone: #91-674-2575309, e-mail: eicphodisha@gmail.com

* Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal : "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in".

* All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

C-1017: ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (PH)
OIPR-10243/11/0003/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, MALKANGIRI
E-mail ID: - midivmalkangiri@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER - E-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.SEMIDMKG-07/2025-26 - Letter No.1496 Dt. 03-09-2025

The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage rate** bids in Single and Double cover system through **Online Mode**. The bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor, set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in .**

1. Name of the work : Construction of Check Dams in Different Blocks of Malkangiri District under MATY 3.0 Scheme. 2. Total Number of work : 06 (Six) Nos. 3. Estimated cost : Approximately varies from Rs. 39.10 lakh to Rs. 80.00 lakh. 4. Period of completion : Varies from 05 (Five) to 06(Six) Calendar Months. 5. Class of Contractor : "C" &"B" Class Contractor. 6. Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal : From 10.00 A.M of 10.09.25 to 5.00 PM of 25.09.2025. 7. Last date /time for receipt of bids in the portal : 5.00 pm on 25.09.2025. 8. Date of opening of bid : At 11.00 am on 26.09.2025 in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in). 9. Submission of Bids : Online mode . 10. Name of the Officer inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Malkangiri . 11. Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Web-site:www.tendersorissa.gov.in. 12. Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids in Single and Double Cover system through Online Mode for the works as detailed in the table below. The bids should be submitted online in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** by eligible Contractors with CDMS registration as mentioned in Column-6 of table below registered with the State govt. and contractors of equivalent grade / Class registered with Central govt / MES / Railway for execution of works. The registered bidders of outside Odisha can also participate in this process after necessary Portal Enrolment, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Government within a month of acceptance of bids.

A-587: Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division, Malkangiri
OIPR-32285/11/0013/2526

By E-Mail/e-Despatch E_Mail ID:- serwcbaripada@gmail.com ; Ph.No. 06792-261343 / 261344
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
Gangraj, Baripada
"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Works
Identification No.- Online Tender-Bridge N.C.B. No.390 for 2025-26
Letter No. 3382 / Date : 30.8.25 //

1. Name of the Work : Bridge Works under SBY in the District of Mayurbhanj .
2. Total No. of Work : 13 Nos (Thirteen)
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.396.11 lakhs & Rs.832.07 lakhs (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Baripada. Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	Bridge On-line N.C.B. No. 390	Dt.09.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.23.09.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.22.09.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.24.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Sd/- Er. A.K.Naik, Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.
O-685: OIPR-25130/11/0054/2526

INBRIEF

MSMEs must participate in defence R&D: DRDO chief

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chairman Samir V. Kamat on Saturday urged micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups to actively participate in defence research and development, calling it an "opportune time" for industry to engage with the sector. He was speaking at a conclave organised by the Defence Technology and Test Centre, Lucknow. He assured participants that the DRDO would provide all possible support to the MSMEs. In a message, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the DRDO and the MSMEs for organising the conclave and appreciated their role in advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of self-reliance in defence.

12-year-old boy killed by five minor students in Odisha

Five minor students of a madrasa in Odisha's Nayagarh district were arrested for allegedly killing a 12-year-old boy of the institution and dumping his body into a septic tank, an officer said on Sunday. The incident occurred on September 2, when the boy was strangled to death by the prime accused and his four associates. The police registered a case on September 3, and the five accused boys in the age group of 12 to 15 have been taken into custody on Saturday, Additional Superintendent of Police, Nayagarh, Subhas Chandra Panda said. During investigation it was revealed that the victim was sexually abused. PTI

Arunachal village to host Sunrise Festival in December

A village in Arunachal Pradesh that receives the first rays of the sun in the country every day will host the inaugural Sunrise Festival. Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced the five-day festival in Dong in Anjaw district, a village bordering Tibet and located on the easternmost tip of India. "Landed in Walong, Anjaw district, and will be heading towards Dong, the place where the first sun ray touches Indian soil," Mr. Khandu posted the on social media platform X on Saturday. The festival will be held from December 29 to January 2, offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience the first dawn of the New Year in the 'Land of the Rising Sun', Mr. Khandu said.

Kolkata establishments told to display signboards in Bengali

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has ordered all business establishments, commercial institutions, and shops across the city to display signboards prominently in Bengali. The notification says the State's official language should be at the top of all hoardings, signboards, and signage. The order has to be complied with by September 30. The new notification by the Municipal Commissioner recalls an earlier order, dated December 30, 2024, in which shops and institutions were "requested" to include Bengali on their signboards. The Mayor of Kolkata said it was a matter of cultural identity.

5 drown during idol immersion events across Maharashtra

Devotee electrocuted, five injured during procession in Mumbai; at least 13 people remain missing in State as officials launch search operations

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

Fervent farewell: Devotees bid farewell to Lalbaugcha Raja during the Ganesha idol immersion in Mumbai on Sunday. ANI

The grand conclusion of the 10-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival was marred by deaths and injuries to devotees across Maharashtra on Sunday. One person was electrocuted in Mumbai while five devotees drowned in separate incidents. At least 13 people were missing, officials said.

In Mumbai, tragedy struck the immersion procession in the Sakinaka area around 10.45 a.m. when a Ganpati idol came into contact with a hanging electric wire. One person was electrocuted and five were injured in the incident. All injured were reportedly stable.

The continuous rainfall over the past few days, which had left rivers and canals swollen and lakes and wells brimming, contributed to a spate of incidents across the State.

In Pune district's Chakan area, four persons were swept away during idol immersion in separate incidents – two men were swept away in the Bhama river at Waki Khurd while another person was washed away at Shell Pimpalgaon and a fourth person slipped and fell into a well at Birwadi in Pune Rural. The bodies of two victims were recovered.

In Nanded district, three people were swept away at Gadegaon. One was rescued, but search operations continued for the others. A similar tragedy was reported from Nashik district, where four people were washed away, and the body of one victim was recovered. The Jalgaon district administration reported that three people were washed away while three incidents were reported in Thane district, and one body was recovered, the police said. The National and State Disaster Response Forces (NDRF and SDRF) were deployed at multiple sites.

Lalbaugcha Raja

The immersion of Mumbai's most famous Ganesh idol, Lalbaugcha Raja, at Girgaon Chowpatty was delayed by high tide conditions. Traditionally completed before 9 a.m., the immersion was postponed after waves reached a dangerous 4.42 metres at 11.40 a.m. The immersion finally took place in the Arabian Sea around 9:15 p.m. The idol had begun its grand 28-hour procession from Lalbaug on Saturday afternoon and reached Girgaon Chowpatty early on Sunday.

India and Bangladesh to hold talks on water sharing

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission is set to meet in Delhi on Tuesday, sources said, amid ongoing tensions between the two countries. Dhaka plans to send a 10-member team to raise its concerns about water sharing of 14 cross-border rivers.

Sources said that Bangladesh plans to use the discussion as a warm-up for talks on the Ganga Waters Agreement of 1996 that will come up for renewal next year, when Bangladesh will also hold its first election since the overthrow of the Sheikh Hasina government in August 2024.

The treaty was signed during Ms. Hasina's first term in power in 1996, when it was decided that the treaty would be considered for renewal 30 years later. It is understood that Bangladesh will now demand a longer time frame before the next renewal of the treaty. It is also seeking some changes in the use of the river's water on the Indian side.

Diplomatic sources said that Dhaka is expected to ask for a special vehicle to manage the waters of 14 rivers, including the Muhuri, Khowai, Gomti, Dharla, and Doodhkumar.

Bangladesh also wants India's support to create a joint flood forecasting mechanism, sources said.

Anuparna Roy with the award at the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Saturday. AP

Anuparna Roy wins best director award at Venice festival

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI

Filmmaker Anuparna Roy, who made her debut with *Songs of Forgotten Trees*, has bagged the best director award at the Venice International Film Festival.

Presented by filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, the film premiered in the festival's prestigious Orizzonti Competition section, an international competition for films that highlight new trends, with a focus on debut works, young talent, indie features, and less-known cinema, on September 1.

"This film is a tribute to every woman who's ever been silenced, overlooked, or underestimated. May this win inspire more voices, more stories, and more power for women in cinema and beyond," Ms. Roy said in a statement.

Songs of Forgotten Trees follows the story of Thooya, a migrant and aspiring actor, who survives the city by leveraging beauty and wit, occasionally trading intimacy for opportunity.

Stand by Palestine

During her acceptance speech, the filmmaker spoke on the ongoing Israel and Palestine conflict. "Every child deserves peace, freedom, liberation, and Palestinians are no exception... it's a responsibility at the moment to stand by Palestine. I might upset my country but it doesn't matter to me anymore," she said, according to the entertainment news outlet Variety.

Produced by Bibhanshu Rai, Romil Modi, and Ranjan Singh, the cast includes Bhushan Shimpi, Ravi Maan, Pritam Pilania, and Lovely Singh.

The Venice International Film Festival concluded on Saturday.

Nursing dreams suffer as colleges continue 'bond system'

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

When Ritu*, a nursing graduate from Kerala, wanted to return home to care for her parents, she believed her degree would help her secure a government job nearby. Instead, she found herself trapped. Her college in Andhra Pradesh withheld her original certificates, insisting she complete a so-called "service period" of one year at its affiliated hospital before they would be released.

"I wanted to go back to Kerala and work because of family issues, but my college kept all my original certificates. They don't call it a 'bond service', yet that's exactly what it is. Even if I took five days of leave, those days were simply added to extend the service period," she recalls.

Stories like Ritu's lie at the heart of a fresh public interest litigation (PIL) plea filed in the Delhi High Court by the Indian Professional Nurses Association (IPNA), a welfare organisation for nurses.

The petition highlights how private colleges continue to exploit students, despite repeated judicial and regulatory pronouncements declaring the practice unlawful.

Outlawed, yet thriving

The "bond system" – where institutions compel graduates to work in affiliated hospitals for a fixed period and refuse to return their certificates until the term is completed – has been officially abolished for more than a decade.

In 2011, the Delhi High Court directed the Indian Nursing Council (INC) to take proactive steps against the practice, stressing that nurses "should not feel that they are bonded". Accordingly, the INC issued a circular that same year declaring that service bonds and the retention of certificates were "unethical practices" which were to be stopped immediately.

Private colleges continue to exploit students, despite judicial and regulatory pronouncements declaring the practice unlawful.

Around the same time, the Trained Nurses Association of India filed a PIL plea before the Supreme Court, airing its grievances with regard to the working conditions of nurses in private hospitals and nursing homes. The association also raised the bond system prevalent in nursing institutes.

In January 2016, however, the top court dropped this issue after the INC submitted that "the said system has now been abolished". Later, the INC included explicit warnings against the continuation of the bond system in its guidelines for nursing colleges.

Serious plight

According to the IPNA, hundreds of complaints against the system pour in each year from students. They narrate a common plight: colleges holding back critical documents such as Class 10 and 12 mark sheets, nursing degrees, and registration certificates, to ensure that students are bound to work in affiliated hospitals for meagre pay.

For many young nurses, the consequences are severe. Without access to their original certificates, they are unable to pursue higher studies, apply for government jobs, or even seek opportunities abroad.

The IPNA's plea said that institutions deliberately avoid giving receipts for the documents they seize, leaving students without proof and vulnerable to exploitation. Repeated representations made by the IPNA to the INC and State Nursing Councils have largely gone unanswered, according to IPNA joint secretary Siju Thomas.

Ritu recalled how the IPNA and advocate Robin Raju intervened last year, taking up the fight against her college not only on her behalf but also for eight other students whose certificates had been withheld.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, she said that while she was able to retrieve her documents, it is a persistent issue for many students in private institutes.

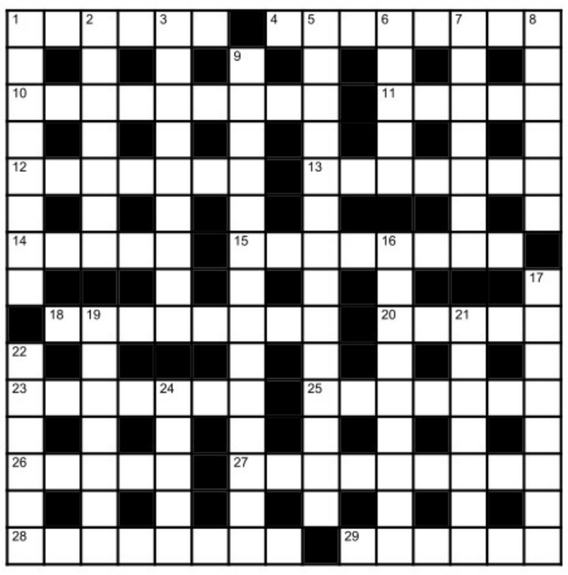
*(*Name changed on request).*

TH CROSSWORD + 14583

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Representing cancer by cross? (6)
4 Waste left exposed and flowing (8)
10 Hawthorne's cow receives fellow ship (9)
11 Ian Paisley's accorded a passage (5)
12 Criticize over allowing only a short distance between these animals (7)
13 Fancy hotel, even allow to play (7)
14 Some fell ill while returning from French city (5)
15 Cold, exposed in order to be lazy (8)
18 Way to kill a scandal about royal decay (8)
20 Tailenders making you less confident - no enthusiasm (5)
23 Spend a penny on fashion - shows nobility (7)
25 Complaint of one without husband (7)
26 Traffic police ban parking, it's dangerous for health (1,4)
27 Declines American awards (9)
28 Cosmetic boundary crossed by observer (8)
29 Importance given to a point on a cube, say (6)

Down

1 Happy Alice gets her mother some flowers (8)
2 Assumably, the absence of United States could be terrible (7)
3 Beer drinking - the entire publicity is for the singer (9)
5 Our fearsome dog barking as well (3,4,7)
6 Hate to be part of ministerial oath taking (5)
7 Harry piles on a character (7)
8 Shock as discontented trader raises capital (6)
9 Unexpected turn of events - or in other words what it entitles (5,2,3,4)
16 Appealing desperately for a gratuity (9)
17 Place you have Bath in the UK (8)
19 One guarding school is a stripper of sorts (7)
21 Carol astride a horse is slumping (7)
22 Stop evacuation - call to attention for discipline (6)
24 "It's extempore and lacks depth" - one makes an excuse (5)

SUDOKU

9		4			6			5
5			8					2
				7			8	
	9					1		
		2		8		6		
		3					5	
	7			3				
8					9			4
3			6			2		7

No.SS6635 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

M	B	O	S	C	D	K	N	
Y	E	A	R	D	O	T	U	K
R	A	I	N	E	S	B	D	E
L	E	L	E	L	O	T	R	O
U	S	E	R	D	R	A	G	O
O	N	I	O	O	E	D	G	A
C	A	N	O	O	D	L	E	S
F	I	R	S	T	C	A	U	A
A	P	A	N	A	C	H	E	C
A	L	O	M	E	L	A	A	I
Y	L	R	I	G	I	D	E	C
O	S	Y	S	T	E	M	T	A
E	C	C	O	A	H	O	S	A
N	N	A	T	U	R	M	O	I
L	I	A	T	N	R	A	K	A
A	W	K	W	A	R	D	O	E
R	S	T	E	D	N	I	L	Y
I	E	O	Y					

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	1	5	4	9	3	7	8	2
8	9	2	7	1	5	4	6	3
3	4	7	2	8	6	9	1	5
2	3	9	1	5	4	8	7	6
5	7	1	6	2	8	3	9	4
4	8	6	9	3	7	2	5	1
1	6	4	3	7	9	5	2	8
9	5	3	8	6	2	1	4	7
7	2	8	5	4	1	6	3	9

FAITH

Mahalaya Paksham essence

There is no greater wealth than the blessings of one's ancestors. It is for this reason that one pays obeisance to one's *pitrus* (ancestors) by way of *tarpanam* and making donations at regular intervals. In particular, the days starting with the full moon in the Bhadrapad month until Pradhama, the day after the new moon, referred to as Mahalaya Paksham, are indeed very auspicious days to pray to one's ancestors, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh. During this period, the ancestors are believed to be given leave by Yama to visit their families on earth and watch over them fondly.

When Karna perished in the Mahabharata war and reached the other world, he could enjoy all the pleasures heaven had to offer. When he felt hungry and sought food, he was offered gold and silver as nourishment. When Karna wondered why he was being given precious metals instead of food, it was pointed out that since he had only gifted wealth to others and failed to do annadanam in the name of his ancestors, he could only receive gold and silver. When Karna argued that he could not perform *tarpanam* and make offerings to his ancestors as he was unaware of who his family members were, Yama permitted him to return to earth during Mahalaya Paksham and complete the rituals. Karna duly performed *tarpanam* and offered food in memory of his ancestors during Mahalaya Paksham and on Pradhama on the day after Mahlaya Amavasya.

When Karna returned to the other world, Yama decreed that everyone on Earth should offer food in memory of their ancestors during these 16 days.

MONEYWISE

Weak U.S. dollar, Fed rate-cut hope boost gold, silver

Upward journey: Gold and silver could seek higher levels in the short term. REUTERS

B. Krishnakumar

After a few months of lull, precious metals regained sheen last month. Both gold and silver recorded impressive gains, especially in the latter half of August.

The weakening of the U.S. dollar along with expectations of a further interest rate cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve played a key role in bolstering sentiment towards precious metals.

Comex gold gains

Comex gold gained 5.2% in August and closed at $3,516.1. The performance of Comex silver was even more impressive with the white metal gaining 10.76% to settle at $40.75 by the end of August.

Mirroring the trend in the global markets, MCX Gold price closed 5.06% higher to settle well above the psychological ₹1,00,000 mark at ₹1,03,780 per 10-gram. MCX silver recorded a 8.95% gain in August to settle at ₹1,21,702 per kilogram.

As observed in the last few months, the Comex gold price resumed its uptrend on the breakout of the upper end of the prior range at $3,450. A move past this level triggered momentum to the uptrend, pushing the gold price to fresh all-time highs. The short-term outlook is positive and Comex gold price could head to the next target of $3,680-3,720 range. This positive outlook would be invalidated only if the gold price slips below the support zone at $3,350-$3,370.

Comex silver has displayed relative out-performance versus gold in the past few months, and this persisted in August too. As observed last month, the silver price cooled off a wee bit in August before taking off again.

The breakout above the key resistance at $38.5 imparted momentum to the upside and helped silver price scale fresh 52-week high of $40.75. The short-term outlook remains positive for Comex silver, and the price could head to the next upside target of $43.5-44.5. A close below $35.5 would invalidate the positive outlook.

The uptrend in the international price had a positive rub-off on MCX gold. The MCX gold price managed to breakout above the key resistance level of ₹1,02,000 which is a positive sign. The price could head to the next target zone of ₹1,10,000-₹1,12,000.

Only a breach of the support level at ₹96,500 would invalidate the positive outlook for MCX gold.

Contrary to expectations, MCX silver staged a sharp recovery last month and managed to scale a fresh 52-week high towards the end of August. The silver price could seek higher levels in the short term. A move to ₹1,30,700 -₹1,31,500 appears likely. The positive outlook would be under threat if the price falls below ₹1,11,000.

To summarise, both gold and silver appear to have resumed their uptrend and could seek higher levels in the short term.

(The author is a Chennai based analyst/trader. The views and opinion featured in this column is based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ILLUSTRATION SAINATH B.

Is it possible to mint money from one's hobbies?

Entering the terrains of hobby-investments is a different ball game altogether. Such a foray requires careful understanding, research and patience before it starts yielding gains

GAME FOR HOBBY

Vaishali R. Venkat

What if I told you that you could make money through hobbies? Interesting right? Yes, it's possible to grow money, if hobbies also become investments.

If you are an avid numismatist who collects rare coins, a bibliophile who collects books or comics, a philatelist collecting stamps, a connoisseur of art, or a music buff, you can easily turn that hobby into a source of income.

Even wine and whiskey enthusiasts can earn money by investing in fine vintages. These drinks have also become alternative investments and potential sources of income."

But wait. Even if you don't collect, you can still invest in them, provided you learn and explore. Investing platforms don't care whether you're truly passionate about these hobbies or merely interested in them as assets.

Hobby investments

The world of hobby-style investments is wide and varied - collectibles such as coins, stamps, comics, trading cards, physical or digital art, paintings, fine wines, whiskeys, music royalties, watches, jewellery, vintage cars, motorcycles, memorabilia, autographs and much more.

In India, many such investments are gradually

> Including hobby-style assets in portfolio gives you emotional gratification, financial potential and serves as a good way of diversification

gaining traction.

Making money

Hobbies turn into investments when the items you collect gain value over a period. The worth and value of a collectible depends on its rarity and demand among collectors. A rare coin, first-edition comic or a limited-edition wine bottle could considerably rise in price after a couple of years. Including hobby-style assets in portfolio gives you emotional gratification, financial potential and serves as a good way of diversification.

How to invest?

If you are investing hard-earned money in a post-office scheme, you don't need to worry about learning complicated jargon. Just do some math and see which scheme yields more interest. But entering hobby-investments is a different ball game altogether. It needs careful understanding, research, and patience. You need to observe the market trends keenly, verify the authenticity and consider storage and preservation. At times, you may need to build connections with fellow collectors or communities. Even

> Hobby-investments is a different ball game altogether. You need to observe market trends, verify authenticity and consider storage and preservation

a small mistake will cost painfully. However, the rewards, financial and emotional, can make the learning and effort worthwhile.

Do research

Do not invest in any hobby-style asset without homework. You need to put in the effort to learn about the assets' rarity, authenticity and demand. Check for certified dealers of coins and stamps; explore galleries and online platforms for art; understand vintages, storage and preservation techniques for wine or whiskey. No broker, agent or a friend can do this for you. Only knowledge can reduce your risk, prevent you from making poor or losing choices, and help you invest smartly.

The platforms you choose must be trustworthy. Though online auction-houses and online marketplaces make the buying and selling easier and safer, you need to exercise caution. Read reviews, try to talk to other collectors or hobby-style investors. For wine, whiskey, or music royalties, you need to ensure whether the international platform you have zeroed in on accepts Indian residents. If it does, check currency rates, forex charges, taxes or shipping and other factors before investing. For physical assets such as coins, art, wine and other collectibles, storage and preservation are crucial. Improper care can significantly reduce value over time. Therefore, it is essential to invest in safe storage solutions before investing in them.

Begin small

Begin small. Invest only what you can comfortably afford to lose. For instance, in India, some collectibles such as vintage cars or rare wines need huge investment, so starting with affordable options such as coins or stamps is advisable. Once you get the hang of hobby-style assets, you can gradually move on to other higher-value hobby assets. Patience is key, as these assets do not yield significant profits in the short- or medium term. Diversification is crucial. Spread investments across coins, comics, art, or wine, and other collectibles.

Caution: These investments carry high risk and volatility. Prices may fluctuate wildly and liquidity can be limited. Only invest money you can afford to lose. Make informed decisions based on thorough research and verification. Treat these investments as a combination of passion and long-term strategy, not a shortcut to quick profits.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Now you see it, now you don't

COVERNOTE

K. Nitya Kalyani

This week saw the bizarre suspension of cashless hospitalisation services to clients of two insurers by the Association of Healthcare Providers (AHPI). The insurers cried foul. Their self-regulatory organisation, General Insurance Business Council rose up in their defence, calling out the 'abrupt' and 'unilateral' public announcement 'without dialogue or resolution'. It added that the move hurt the common man and urged that it should be rolled back.

AHPI's move was reportedly because insurers were not re-negotiating treatment package rates while hospitals were facing huge cost inflation. One hears from hospitals that they are being pressured to accept five-year contracts on package rates by insurers.

Insurers empanel hospitals - add them to their preferred provider network - and the insured can avail cashless treatment at these establishments. Being part of the network entails hospitals treating the policyholders of the insurers at pre-negotiated package rates for various treatments, procedures and surgeries.

More patients

Hospitals sign on since this opens the door to customers, especially the paying ones. The recent crisis was resolved after talks and suspension of cashless service was revoked.

Meanwhile another insurer suspended cashless facilities at one of its hospital partners, a chain of hospitals as 'package rates have not been renegotiated for a length of time.' In all the above cases its not as if the claims will not be paid. The insured has to settle the hospital bill and make a reimbursement claim.

The face-off brings to sharp focus the inequality between a highly-regulated insurance industry where the regulator wants all hospitalisation claims to be cashless. Meanwhile, there is no regulation on pricing for the healthcare sector.

In the initial period of health cover in India, hospitals overcharged the insured patients who went along as they had paid for insurance. Now, the tussle between the two has taken a different hue. One dimension is the problem described above. Another is insurance or not, hospitals charge preferred rates, letting insured claim cashless treatment for the negotiated rate while billing them separately for the difference.

Another departure hospitals make, is to ask patients to deposit the full package cost up front pending receipt of payment via insurer's cashless system. After that they will refund the patient. Hospitals say this is because, having treated and discharged the insured patient, they wait for an indeterminate time for payments as insurers raise query after query.

An ecosystem has several players and all of them have to find a solution that meet their needs and is also win-win. Without such a dynamic equilibrium, the system will not work.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.10	6.35	7.10	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.40	7.00	7.00	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.60	4.75	6.00	5.75
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.25	7.50	8.00
slice Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.75	8.25	7.75
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.20	7.50	7.75	8.20
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.45	7.25	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.50	6.75	6.75
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.65	6.00	7.65	7.25
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.60	6.25	6.60	6.60
Bandhan Bank	7.20	7.00	7.00	5.85
City Union Bank	6.75	6.75	6.65	6.25
CSB Bank	6.80	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.55	6.30	6.40	6.25
DCB Bank	7.20	6.90	7.00	7.00
Federal Bank	6.70	6.40	6.50	6.50
HDFC Bank	6.60	6.25	6.45	6.40
ICICI Bank	6.60	6.25	6.60	6.60
IDFC FIRST Bank	7.00	6.30	6.75	6.60
IndusInd Bank	7.00	6.75	6.75	6.65
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.30	6.75	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	6.65	6.55	6.55	6.55
Karnataka Bank	6.65	6.50	6.15	6.15
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.60	6.25	6.40	6.25
RBL Bank	7.20	7.00	7.20	6.70
SBM Bank India	7.50	6.70	6.90	7.50
South Indian Bank	6.60	6.60	6.20	5.70
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.05	6.80	6.25	6.25
YES Bank	7.00	6.65	7.00	6.75
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.40
Bank of India	6.60	6.25	6.25	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	6.70	6.20	6.20	6.10
Canara Bank	6.50	6.25	6.25	6.25
Central Bank of India	7.00	6.50	6.50	6.50
Indian Bank	6.70	6.10	6.25	6.00
Indian Overseas Bank	6.75	6.60	6.20	6.20
Punjab National Bank	6.60	6.25	6.40	6.25
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.70	6.00	6.00	6.10
State Bank of India	6.60	6.25	6.30	6.05
Union Bank of India	6.60	6.40	6.60	6.40

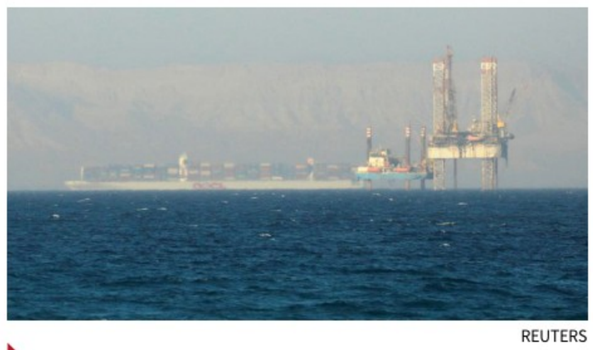
Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	7.50-8.95	7.50-8.95	7.50-8.95
Bank of Baroda	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.50
Punjab National Bank	7.50-9.35	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.25
Bank of India	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.35
Bank of Maharashtra	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75
Indian Overseas Bank	7.35 #	7.35 #	7.35 #
Indian Bank	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40
Central Bank of India	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.99 #	7.99 #	7.99 #
ICICI Bank	7.70 #	7.70 #	7.70 #
Axis Bank	8.35-11.90	8.35-11.90	8.35-9.35
HSBC Bank	7.70 #	7.70 #	7.70 #
South Indian Bank	7.75 #	7.75 #	7.75 #
Karur Vysya Bank	7.95-10.90	7.95-10.90	7.95-10.90
Karnataka Bank	8.19-10.74	8.19-10.74	8.19-10.74
Federal Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50
Bandhan Bank	8.41-15.00	8.41-12.58	8.41-12.58
RBL Bank	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
CSB Bank	9.39-11.08	9.39-11.08	9.39-11.08
HDFC Bank	7.90 #	7.90 #	7.90 #
City Union Bank	8.25-9.50	8.50-10.00	8.75-10.50
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.45 #	7.45 #	7.45 #
Tata Capital	7.75 #	7.75 #	7.75 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.25-11.50	8.25-11.50	8.25-10.85
GIC Housing Finance	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Sammaan Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Aditya Birla Capital	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
ICICI Home Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #

Rates as on Sept. 3 #onwards Source:Paisabazaar.com

DUBAI

Undersea cables cut in the Red Sea, disrupts Internet in Asia, West Asia



REUTERS

Undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea disrupted Internet in parts of Asia and West Asia on Sunday, though it was not clear what caused the incident. NetBlocks, which monitors Internet access, said "subsea cable outages in the Red Sea degraded Internet connection in countries," which it said included India and Pakistan. AP

BANGKOK

Thailand tycoon takes office as new PM after royal endorsement

AFP

Thai tycoon Anutin Charnvirakul took office as Prime Minister on Sunday, after an endorsement from the King. Mr. Anutin becomes the kingdom's third leader in two years, but has taken power with coalition backing conditional on dissolving parliament within four months to hold fresh elections. AFP

LONDON

Police arrest 900 in London for supporting Palestine Action

REUTERS

The British police said on Sunday they arrested almost 900 people demonstrating in London against a ban on Palestine Action, which has been deemed a terrorist organisation. Almost 1,600 people have now been detained, many for silently holding signs supporting the group, since it was outlawed two months ago. AP

COLOMBO

Excavation of Sri Lanka's mass grave halted over lack of funds

AP

Excavation work on the mass grave at Chemmani in Sri Lanka's northern province has been halted pending fresh allocation of funds by the Justice Ministry, lawyers close to the operation said. Earlier this year, skeletal remains were discovered during a routine development, and excavations began under judicial supervision. PTI

Israel warns recognising Palestinian state could trigger 'unilateral' action

Israel Foreign Minister says such a recognition 'will destabilise the region' and will make it 'harder to get to the peace'; visiting Denmark Minister ensures his country does not have such plans while U.S. Ambassador condemns such moves

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's Foreign Minister branded an international push to recognise Palestinian statehood a "mistake" on Sunday and warned it could trigger an unspecified unilateral response, after reports that Israel plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank.

Several countries, including France and Britain, have pledged to recognise a Palestinian state during the UN General Assembly later this month.

Israel's relations with France have been particularly strained since President Emmanuel Macron announced his country's plans and co-chaired a conference in July with Saudi Arabia to call for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Shared grief: Women mourn the death of Palestinians, killed by Israel, in front of al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City on Sunday. AFP

Britain said it would recognise a Palestinian state if Israel failed to agree to a truce in the Gaza war, triggered by Palestinian group Hamas's October 2023 attack.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said on Sunday that such recognition "will destabilise the region" and would make it "harder to get to the peace". "It will push Israel also to have unilateral decisions," Mr. Saar said at a joint press conference with his visiting Danish counterpart, Lars Lokke Rasmussen.

"States such as France and the U.K. that pushed the so-called recognition had made a tremendous mistake," he added.

Mr. Rasmussen said Denmark does not plan a similar move.

"We will never... recognise a Palestinian state which is ruled by Hamas or any other terrorist organisation," he said.

"And therefore it comes with a lot of preconditions – a disarmed Palestinian state recognising Israel, transparency, democracy... That is our position."

Mr. Saar did not specify what Israel's reaction might entail, but his remarks came after the government approved new settlement projects in the West Bank.

Trump ready for the second phase of sanctions on Russia

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he is ready to move to a second phase of sanctioning Russia, the closest he has come to suggesting he is on the verge of ramping up sanctions against Moscow or its oil buyers over the war in Ukraine.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly threatened Moscow with further sanctions but withheld them as he pursued peace talks.

The latest comments suggest an increasingly aggressive posture, but Mr. Trump stopped short of saying he was committed to such a decision or what a second phase might entail.

Donald Trump

Asked by a reporter at the White House if he is ready to move to "the second phase" of sanctions against Russia, Mr. Trump responded, "Yeah, I am." He did not elaborate.

The White House did not immediately respond to an email on Sunday seeking comment about what steps Mr. Trump was contemplating. The exchange was a follow-up to Mr. Trump's comments on Wednesday defending the actions he had taken already on Russia, including imposing punitive tariffs on India's U.S.-bound exports last month.

India is a major buyer of Russia's energy exports, while Western buyers have cut back in response to the war.

Bessent's remarks

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Sunday that the U.S. and the European Union could heap "secondary tariffs on the countries that buy Russian oil," pushing the Russian economy to the brink of collapse and bringing Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table.

China is a major buyer of Russian energy exports.

Trump threatens to unleash 'Department of War' on Chicago

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The move seeks to replicate operation in Washington where the National Guard was deployed

U.S. President Donald Trump threatened on Saturday to unleash his newly rebranded "Department of War" on Chicago, further heightening tensions over his push to deploy troops into Democratic-led U.S. cities. The move seeks to replicate an operation in the U.S. capital Washington, where Mr. Trump deployed National Guard troops and boosted numbers of federal agents.

"Chicago about to find out why it's called the Department of WAR," Mr. Trump posted on Saturday on his Truth Social account.

The Democratic governor of Illinois, where Chicago is located, voiced outrage at Mr. Trump's post. "The President of the United States is threatening to go to war with an American city. This is not a joke. This is not normal," Governor JB Pritzker wrote on X.

Teen whose tech wizardry turned him 'God's influencer' is first millennial saint

Associated Press
VATICAN CITY

Pope Leo XIV declared a 15-year-old computer wizard the Catholic Church's first millennial saint on Sunday, giving the next generation of Catholics a relatable role model who used technology to spread the faith and earn the nickname "God's influencer."

Leo canonised Carlo Acutis, who died in 2006, during an open-air Mass in St. Peter's Square before 80,000 people, many of them millennials and couples with young children. Leo also canonised another popular Italian figure who died young, Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Road to salvation: Pope Leo XIV blesses the family of Carlo Acutis in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sunday. AP

Leo said both men created "masterpieces" out of their lives by dedicating them to God. The new saints "are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upwards," Leo said.

Acutis was born on May 3, 1991, in London to a wealthy but not particularly observant Catholic family. They moved back to Milan soon after he was born. Acutis was particularly interested in computer science and devoured college-level books on programming even as a youngster. He earned the nickname "God's Influencer," thanks to his main tech legacy: a multilingual website documenting so-called Eucharistic miracles recognised by the church.

In October 2006, at age 15, Acutis fell ill with acute leukemia. Within days, he was dead. He was entombed in Assisi, known for its association with another popular saint, St. Francis.

South Korea to bring home 300 workers detained in U.S. raid

Associated Press
SEOUL

More than 300 South Korean workers detained following a massive immigration raid at a Hyundai plant in Georgia will be released and brought home, the South Korean government announced on Sunday.

Kang Hoon-sik, chief of staff for President Lee Jae Myung, said that South Korea and the U.S. had finalised negotiations on the workers' release. He said South Korea plans to send a charter plane to bring the workers home as soon as the remaining administrative steps are completed. Foreign Minister Cho Hyun is to leave for the U.S. on Monday for talks related to the workers' releases.

U.S. immigration authorities said on Friday they detained 475 people, most of them South Korean nationals, when federal agents raided Hyundai's sprawling manufacturing site in Georgia where the Korean automaker makes electric vehicles. Agents focused on a plant that is still under construction at which Hyundai has partnered with LG Energy Solution to produce batteries that power EVs.

Sport

Radhakrishnan and Vimal put in the hard yards

BUCHI BABU

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

On an attritional day, openers S. Radhakrishnan and R. Vimal Khumar stitched together a resolute 127-run stand to put TNCA President's XI in a good position against Hyderabad on day two of the Buchi Babu tournament final at the CSK-HPC ground on Sunday.

In response to the visitors' first-innings total of 376, the Tamil Nadu side finished the day on 142 for one, still 234 runs adrift at the halfway stage of the match.

It was a fine battle between the two teams, as the Hyderabad bowlers – mostly its spinners – kept asking probing questions, and the openers were equally adept at keeping the visitors at bay.

On song: Radhakrishnan's unbeaten 73 helped President's XI reach 142 for one. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The duo was rock solid in defence and soaked up pressure just as the pitch started to show signs of wearing.

There were only eight boundaries in the 61 overs for the hosts, and the two batters were largely risk-averse, preferring to nudge the ball around the field, with Radhakrishnan collecting 15 doubles.

Vimal, who made a century in the semifinals, continued his good form and executed some classical cover drives, leaning fully into the delivery and piercing the in-field.

Hyderabad finally got a breakthrough when off-spinner Rohith Rayudu had Vimal caught behind as the batter miscued a cut shot.

Earlier, the TN bowlers, led by left-arm spinner P. Vidyuth, ensured Hyderabad did not get away to an imposing total by dismissing the reigning champion before lunch.

Despite the lethargic scoring rate, TN coach M. Senthilnathan was pleased with his batters' efforts. "They showed great application, and we still have two more days. I will take 142 for one than 180 for three," Senthilnathan said.

The scores: Hyderabad 376 in 115.4 overs (Hima Teja 97, Varun Goud 67, P. Vidyuth 4/104) vs TNCA President's XI 142/1 in 61 overs (S. Radhakrishnan 73 batting, R. Vimal Khumar 54).

Sarthak finishes the third round with a superb win

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

A set of new tyres and supreme effort helped Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing) snatch a superb win in the Premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc category to finish the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2025 on a successful note at the Madras International Circuit here on Sunday.

The third win of the season took Sarthak within nine points of Saturday's Race-1 winner, Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1) who, recovering from an off-track incursion following a contact with another rider, managed to finish second ahead of teammate Rajini Krishnan.

Sarthak.

The results (Provisional – all 6 laps unless mentioned):
National Championships:
Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-2): 1. Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing) (11min, 03.548s); 2. Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1) (11min, 03.658s); 3. Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1) (11min, 07.874s).

Pro-Stock 200cc Open (Race-2): 1. Savion Sabu (Mad Rabbit Racing) (11min, 47.829s); 2. Sachin J (Mad Rabbit Racing) (11min, 58.070s); 3. Navaneeth Kumar (Chandra LGE Racing) (11min, 58.218s).

Super Stock 165cc Intermediate (Race-2): 1. Mohammed Samrul Zubair (Motul Sparks Racing) (12min, 43.520s); 2. Raj Kumar (Motul Sparks Racing) (12min, 43.780s); 3. Vysak Shoban (Speed-Up Racing) (12min, 44.091s).

Stock 301-400cc (Novice) (Race-2): 1. Mohamed Mikail (Mad Rabbit Racing) (12min, 08.333s); 2. Jagadeesh Nagaraj (Motul Sparks Racing) (12min, 08.531s); 3. Kamal Navas (Rockers Racing) (12min, 19.501s).

BEST PERFORMERS

The shining stars of the 2025 edition of Asia Cup hockey

R.V. MOORTHY

The individual awards in the Asia Cup tournament held in Rajgir: **Player-of-the-final:** Dilpreet Singh; **Player-of-the-tournament:** Abhishek *(in pic)*; **Top scorer:** Akhimullah Anuar (Mas, 12 goals); **Best goalkeeper:** Jaehan Kim (Kor); **Rising star:** Jeffrynus Andywalfian (Mas); **Promising goalkeeper:** Caiyu Wang (Chn).

RECORD MARGIN

Bethell, Root hit tons as England thrashes South Africa by 342 runs

AFP

Joe Root and Jacob Bethell scored tons as England crushed South Africa by a world record 342 runs in the third ODI on Sunday. The previous biggest margin was 317 by India against Sri Lanka in 2023. **The scores:** England 414/5 in 50 overs (Root 100, Bethell 110) bt South Africa 72 in 20.5 overs (Archer 4/18). **PoM:** Archer.

SPINNING A WEB

Nawaz bowls Pakistan to thumping win over Afghanistan in final

FILE PHOTO

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz claimed a career-best five for 19, including a hat-trick, to bowl Pakistan to a 75-run win over Afghanistan in the tri-series final in Sharjah on Sunday. **The scores:** Pakistan 141/8 in 20 overs (Zaman 27, Nawaz 25, Rashid 3/38) bt Afghanistan 66 in 15.5 overs (Nawaz 5/19). **PoM & PoS:** Nawaz.

SUPER SUNDAY

Titans too good for Warriorz; Devank fastest to 50 raid points

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Telugu Titans recorded a 44-34 win over Bengal Warriorz in a PKL 12 match in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. Vijay Malik and Bharat Hooda registered Super 10s for Titans. Devank Dalal scored 13 points for Warriorz, becoming the fastest to register 50 raid points in a season. **Other result:** Dabang Delhi bt Jaipur Pink Panthers 36-35.

India rules Asia, books a World Cup spot

The host adapts to the challenges thrown by Korea, switching flanks and rotating continuously in the midfield to create space and take control

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

Mission accomplished: The Indians are a happy lot after producing a clinical display to tame the Koreans. R.V. MOORTHY

India ended an eight year wait to be crowned the continental champion, winning 4-1 against defending champion Korea in the final of the Asia Cup here on Sunday and assuring itself of a spot at the 2026 World Cup.

While the scoreline might suggest an easy win, it was anything but. Korea fought back and fought hard with India pulling ahead on the dint of individual brilliance and tactical control. It was not the kind of free-flowing game India displayed in different measures in its last two games but the team adapted to a vastly different and difficult opposition, switching flanks and rotating continuously in the midfield to keep creating space.

The massive victory against China the day before might have raised public expectations but coach Craig Fulton had insisted his boys would play the game, not the occasion, be clinical and get better in certain areas.

The team stepped up to the task, not as dominant but equally clinical.

The start was electric, Sukhjeet receiving Harmanpreet's pass from near the dotted line and his reverse shot flying into the Korean goal 31 seconds into the game, India's fastest goal of the competition.

Chances were created, not through brute superiority but clinical accuracy. Another aerial ball from Harmanpreet in the 28th minute, brought down perfectly by Sanjay inside the circle, saw Dilpreet make it 2-0 at half-time.

India could have added another but for Jugraj's penalty stroke in the ninth minute pushed away by Jaehan Kim – deservedly named Best goalkeeper – with his stick.

Post the break, Korea started pushing back, hoping to bounce back similar to how it did against Malaysia. It also got a series of PCs, but India's defence held firm. Shaky and erratic at the start of the tournament, the defence tightened up and the team was a lot more disciplined.

Fulton had also wanted his players to stay composed, not get carried away by a crowd baying for goal every time India had the ball, and they duly obliged, keeping their head low and mind focused on the task at hand, avoiding showboating or hurrying for the shot. It created fewer chances up front but more on-target shots.

Korea's plan to open channels on the flanks by drawing in the Indian forwards through the middle, which worked against Malaysia, did not succeed.

The Indian midfield spread wide to cut the Koreans down and found ways to keep feeding the forwards. A 45th-minute PC saw Harmanpreet's shot saved but the resulting long corner ended in Dilpreet keeping the ball in play and scoring his second. A comfortable two-goal margin going into the last 15 minutes became 4-1 with Amit Rohidas' PC and while Dain Son pulled one back a minute later, Korea had no chance of coming back.

Earlier, Malaysia thrashed China 4-1 to finish third. Japan ended fifth to keep its chances of playing the World Cup qualifiers alive with a 6-1 win over Bangladesh.

Hockey India announced ₹3 lakh each for the Indian players and ₹1.5 lakh each to the support staff.

The results: Final: India 4 (Sukhjeet Singh 1, Dilpreet Singh 28, 45, Amit Rohidas 50) bt Korea 1 (Dain Son 51); **3-4 playoff:** Malaysia 4 (Norsyafiq Sumantri 8, Akhimullah Anuar 36, 50, Syed Cholan 58) bt China 1 (Jiesheng Gao 54); **5-6:** Japan 6 (Koji Yamasaki 9, Ryosuke Shinohara 15, 38, 56, Ken Nagayoshi 36, Seren Tanaka 50) bt Bangladesh 1 (Amirul Islam 55).

On cloud nine: Dilpreet celebrates one of his two goals. R.V. MOORTHY

Fulton praises team's intelligence, fitness

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

Craig Fulton had not been too happy early on in the Asia Cup, but on Sunday, the India head coach was a content man.

"It was difficult. A lot of things didn't fall in place for us... at the same time, it was a good performance, a good result," Fulton said.

"Finals can be sketchy. They could go 2-2 and then you're looking for a winner. But to get 4-0 up and then 4-1, I am happy with the position at the end," he said.

His track record with the Indian side has been impressive – three gold medals and a bronze – but Fulton sought to create more depth to not just remain on top in Asia but be a serious challenger to the bigger teams in Europe.

"Yeah, I would (call it a really good tournament team). But the main thing is we want to be No. 1 in Asia but we also want to have more depth in our squad.

"All the power sits in Europe, in a way, and obviously Australia. We're trying to build depth so that we can challenge the teams in Europe," he said.

Fulton singled out the team's commitment and intelligence. "The team is super intelligent. Whatever we throw at them, they try and do it.

The team's fitness also came in for praise. "If you play seven games in 10 days, that's really difficult and we were physically stronger than all the teams here. That was the No. 1 thing to do. We didn't start so well but finished really strong".

South to meet Central in summit clash as semifinals end in draws

DULEEP TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A fruitful morning session was all that South Zone needed to shut out North Zone on the final day of its Duleep Trophy semifinal at the BCCI CoE Ground (1) here on Sunday.

In the final, commencing at the same venue here on Thursday, South will take on Central Zone.

Resuming on 278 for five, North needed a further 259 runs to overhaul South's innings total. North's tough task was made that much harder when key batter Shubham Khajuria (128) was taken out in the second over of the day.

Khajuria prodded forward to a ball from fast bowler V. Koushik, but failed to cover the line. With Khajuria's stumps knocked back, South had one foot in the final.

Sahil Lothra (19, 31b, 2x4) and Mayank Dagar (31, 40b, 5x4) presented a semblance of fight as the skies suddenly became overcast. North hoped for rain to provide some relief, but it was not to be.

Kerala fast bowler M.D. Nidheesh produced a lively spell, cleaning up Lothra and Dagar. North was soon dismissed for 361, 175 runs short of South's tally.

South batted 24.4 overs in its second innings, before the teams agreed to call it off.

Having gained the first-innings lead on Saturday, Central was virtually assured of a spot in the summit clash.

Saransh Jain (63 n.o.) took the Central total to 600 – putting the game to bed. Yashasvi Jaiswal (64), Aarya Desai (35) and Tanush Kotian (40 n.o.) got runs under their belt when West came out to bat. Central spinner Saransh (5/84) reduced West to 216/8, giving the former the prospect of gaining a victory. At the stroke of tea, however, the teams shook hands and play came to an end.

Beaten all ends up: Mayank has no clue to this one from Nidheesh. K. MURALI KUMAR

Game to savour: Saransh followed up his unbeaten 63 with a five-wicket haul in West's second innings. K. MURALI KUMAR

Andre, Smaran picked

C. Andre Siddarth (Tamil Nadu) and R. Smaran (Karnataka) have replaced N. Jagadeesan and Devdutt Padikkal in the South squad for the final. Jagadeesan and Padikkal will play for India-A against Australia-A in the series beginning on September 16.

The scores: At BCCI CoE Ground (1): South Zone 536 & 95/1 in 24.4 overs (N. Jagadeesan 52 n.o.) drew with North Zone 361 in 100.1 overs (Shubham Khajuria 128, Ayush Badoni 40, Nishant Sindhu 82, Mayank Dagar 31, M.D. Nidheesh 3/82, Gurjapneet Singh 4/96). **PoM:** Jagadeesan.

At BCCI CoE Ground (2): West Zone 438 & 216/8 in 53.3 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 64, Aarya Desai 35, Tanush Kotian 40 n.o., Saransh Jain 5/84, Harsh Dubey 3/96) drew with Central Zone 600 in 164.3 overs (Ayush Pandey 40, Danish Malewar 76, Shubham Sharma 96, Rajat Patidar 77, Upendra Yadav 87, Harsh 75, Saransh 63 n.o., Deepak Chahar 33, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4/130, Arzan Nagwaswalla 3/57). **PoM:** Saransh.

Sabalenka proves too strong for Anisimova, finishes on a Slam high

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka overpowered Amanda Anisimova to defend her US Open crown on Saturday, defeating her American rival in straight sets to clinch the fourth Grand Slam title of her career.

Sabalenka ruthlessly attacked Anisimova's shaky service game to complete a 6-3, 7-6(3) victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium which cements her status at the pinnacle of women's tennis.

The 27-year-old from Belarus had gone into Saturday's final knowing it was her last chance to grab a Grand Slam crown in 2025 after agonising losses in the Australian and French Open finals.

Sabalenka duly atoned for those defeats to end Anisimova's hopes of a remarkable redemption just two months after her traumatic 6-0, 6-0 thrashing by Iga Swiatek in the Wimbledon final.

Sabalenka clinched victory after once again demonstrating her incredible prowess in tiebreaks – winning her 19th consecutive one – to warp up the tie in one hour and 34 minutes.

Anisimova, meanwhile, was left ruing her inability to make the most of break points at key moments, in sharp contrast to Sabalenka who converted five of her six break point chances.

That imbalance was on display early in the first set, when Anisimova failed to convert three break points openings as Sabalenka took a 2-0 lead.

Yet Anisimova hit back in the third game, lasering a backhand winner into the corner to earn break point before unfurling a rasping forehand winner to break back before holding for 2-2.

With the momentum behind her and her groundstrokes forcing Sabalenka around the court, Anisimova then broke again for a 3-2 lead.

But that was the catalyst for Sabalenka to raise her game and clinch the first set.

Sabalenka punished a wayward service game from Anisimova early in the second set and looked in complete control at 3-1.

Yet Anisimova wasn't quite finished, and she held confidently before breaking back to love to level it at 3-3.

Anisimova then thumped a wide open forehand long to gift Sabalenka a 15-40 lead, the Belarusian once again seized her chance for a break.

Sabalenka held for 5-3 and was soon serving for the match at 5-4. Yet she allowed Anisimova off the hook. But in the tiebreak, Sabalenka reasserted her control and she sprinted to a 6-1 lead before closing out the match.

Pure bliss: Sabalenka became the first woman to successfully defend the US Open since Serena in 2014. REUTERS

The result (final):
Women: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 8-Anisimova (USA) 6-3, 7-6(3).

INBRIEF

Mishara shines as Sri Lanka clinches T20I series

Sri Lanka's Kamil Mishara hit an unbeaten 73 as the tourist beat Zimbabwe by eight wickets on Sunday to win the third T20I at the Harare Sports Club and take the series 2-1.

The scores: Zimbabwe 191/8 in 20 overs (Marumani 51, Raza 28, Burl 26, Chameera 2/33, Hemantha 3/38) lost to Sri Lanka 193/2 in 17.4 overs (Nissanka 33, Kusal 30, Mishara 73 n.o., Perera 46 n.o.).
Toss: Lanka; **PoM:** Mishara; **PoS:** Chameera.

ICC clears Subrayen's bowling action

South Africa spinner Prenelan Subrayen, who was reported for illegal bowling action in the first ODI of the three-match series against Australia last month, has been cleared by the ICC on Sunday. "Subrayen can continue bowling in international cricket," the ICC said in a release.

Indian men shoot gold in the compound event

The trio of Rishabh, Saini and Fuge records come-from-behind win over France for the honours; Rishabh-Jyothi pair claims mixed silver after a tight summit clash against a Dutch duo

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

The Indian compound men's team held its nerve to beat France and claim its maiden gold medal at the World archery championships in Gwangju, Korea, on Sunday.

The trio of Rishabh Yadav, Aman Saini and Prathamesh Fuge gave its best to record a come-from-behind 235-233 (57-59, 60-58, 59-59, 59-57) win in an intensely fought final.

Rishabh and the experienced V. Jyothi Surekha took the mixed team silver after India lost 155-157 (39-38, 37-39, 40-40, 39-40) to the Netherlands, comprising Sanne de Laat and Mike Schloesser, in a tight summit clash.

Frenchmen Nicolas Girard, Jean Philippe Boulch and Francois Dubois won the first end of the men's final but the Indians, who dispatched Australia, the USA and Turkey overnight, fought back in the second to level the scores.

Joy unbound: Fuge, Rishabh and Saini along with coach Surender are elated. WORLD ARCHERY

The two teams remained tied even after the first three arrows of the fourth end. However, the Indians produced three 10s when it mattered the most. In reply, the French, under pressure, managed two 9s and a 10.

It was a perfect reward for the promising Rishabh, who showed consistency this year to gather five medals, including two gold, in World Cup stages and a bronze in the World Games. The 23-year-old, mentored by the experienced Abhishek Verma, brilliantly overcame the disappointment of losing the mixed team final, where India forfeited an early advantage.

The results:
Compound: Individual:
Men: Rishabh Yadav got byes (1st and 2nd rounds), bt Elia Fregnan (Ita) 148-138 (3rd round); Prathamesh Fuge bt Quentin Croes (Ger) 146-142 (1st round), bt Akbarali Karabayev (Kaz) 149-147 (2nd round), bt Nico Wiener (Aut) 149-148 (3rd round); Aman Saini bt Eshaq Al Daghman (Irq) 148-147 (1st round), bt Andrew Fagan (Can) 147-146 (2nd round), bt Ajay Scott (Gbr) 147-147, shoot-off: 10*-10 (shot closer to centre) (3rd round).
Team: Finals:
Men: India (Rishabh, Saini, Fuge) bt France (Nicolas Girard, Jean Philippe Boulch and Francois Dubois) 235-233.
Mixed: The Netherlands (Sanne de Laat and Mike Schloesser) bt India (Rishabh, Jyothi Surekha) 157-155.

Not slowing down: Ronaldo took his record international tally to 140 goals with a brace against Armenia. REUTERS

Perfect outing for Portugal; England gets a drab victory

WC QUALIFIERS

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Cristiano Ronaldo helped an emotional Portugal enjoy a perfect start to its World Cup qualifying campaign as Thomas Tuchel's uninspiring England remained unbeaten on Saturday.

Portugal, playing for the first time since the passing away of its Liverpool forward Diogo Jota along with his brother Andre Silva in a car accident, swept aside Armenia 5-0 in Yerevan.

Ronaldo scored in either half, the second a sizzling shot from distance, to take his record international tally to 140 goals. A brace from Joao Felix and a contribution from Joao Cancelo lifted Roberto Martinez's side to the top of Group F.

England extended its unbeaten run in Group-K to four matches but hardly set the world alight in defeating modest Andorra 2-0 at Villa Park in Birmingham.

The results: Group-F: Armenia 0 lost to Portugal 5 (Felix 10, 62, Cristiano Ronaldo 21, 46, Cancelo 32); Ireland 2 (Ferguson 49, Idah 90+3) drew with Hungary 2 (Varga 2, Sallai 15). **Group-H:** Austria 1 (Sabitzer 54-pen) bt Cyprus 0; San Marino 0 lost to Bosnia-Herzegovina 6 (Tahirovic 21, Dzeko 70, 72, Bazdar 81, Alajbegovic 85, Mujakic 90). **Group-K:** Latvia 0 lost to Serbia 1 (Vlahovic 12); England 2 (Garcia 25-og, Rice 67) bt Andorra 0.

SNAPSHOTS

Qatar downs India in AFC u-23 Asian Cup qualifiers
India lost 1-2 to Qatar after being reduced to 10 men in its second Group-H clash of the AFC under-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers in Doha.

Chhattisgarh women hold Karnataka
Karnataka was held to a 1-1 draw by host Chhattisgarh in the Senior women's National football championship in Narainpur on Saturday.
The result: Chhattisgarh 1 (Sheen Sharma 84-OG) drew with Karnataka 1 (Rivka Ramji 73).

Bhavika scalps seven in Rajajinagar Cricketers' five-wkt. victory
H. Bhavika Reddy's seven-wicket haul (7/21) helped Rajajinagar Cricketers register a five-wicket win over Swastic Union CC (2) in the 2025-26 Karnataka Women's League cricket in Bengaluru.
The scores: Swastic Union (2) 158 in 37.4 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 38, Liyanka Shetty 69, H. Bhavika Reddy 7/21) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 160/5 in 31.4 overs (Roshini Kiran 76 n.o.).
Cambridge 60 in 19 overs (J. Deeksha 5/4) lost to Swastic Union (1) 61/1 in 12.1 overs.
Vijaya 32 in 16.4 overs (C.J. Nirmitha 4/9) lost to Palar SC, Kolar 36 for no loss in 3.1 overs.
Mount Joy 202 in 44.2 overs (R.L. Nidhi 44, T. Nireeksha 56) bt Yankees 124 in 29.3 overs.
Engrades 112 in 37.3 overs lost to Dooravani Cricketers 113/6 in 27.2 overs.
Hammonds 412/4 in 50 overs (Aaradhya Mallik 60, Gowda Kusuma Nagaraju 81, R. Aditi 129, H.R. Saanvi 40 n.o.) bt Social Cricketers 67 in 21.2 overs.
FUCC (1) 202 in 19.4 overs (S. Shubha 87, Tejaswini Uday Kumar 44) bt South End SC 50 in 25.5 overs (S. Shubha 5/17).
Bangalore SC 57 in 17.4 overs lost to Vultures 61/4 in 10.2 overs.

Mukund finishes runner-up in Nakhon Pathom

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Top seed S. Mukund was beaten 6-4, 6-2 in the final by third seed Dominik Palan of Czechia in the $30,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand, on Sunday.

It was the second defeat in a fortnight for Mukund against Palan, after the hard-fought semifinal loss last week.

In the $15,000 ITF women's event in Denia, Spain, Madhurima Sawant won her maiden doubles title in the professional circuit in partnership with Didi Canizares of Spain.

Indian boxers Lakshya and Sachin move up

Sports Bureau

Lakshya Chahar (80kg) and Sachin Siwach (60kg) won their respective round of 32 matches to move into the pre-quarterfinals of the World boxing championships in Liverpool.

On Sunday, Chahar upset Jordanian Olympian and 2022 Asian champion Hussein Iashaish 5-0.

Even as Iashaish tried to corner the taller Indian, Chahar found a way to unleash his punches and win the first round 3-2.

Iashaish bounced back to take the second round with a 3-2 verdict before Chahar connected some spectacular left blows on the drained Jordanian in the one-sided third round and emerged as the victor.

Chahar will take on Frenchman Yojerlin Cesar in the last 16.

Pawan Bartwal's journey ended in the second round as he lost 0-5 to Asian Games bantamweight champion Mirazizbek Mirzakhalilov in a closely-fought men's 55kg bout. Bartwal put up a valiant show, matching Mirzakhalilov shot for shot in a rapid exchange, even as the Uzbek took the first two rounds on split decisions.

Bartwal combined his jabs and hooks well, but could not stop Mirzakhalilov from finding the target and winning the bout.

On Saturday night, Sachin Siwach, who got a first-round bye, defeated Jacob Cassar of Australia 5-0 in a round of 32 bout to enter the pre-quarterfinals. He will meet Kazakhstan's Biibars Zhexen. However, Sanju lost her women's 60kg first round bout 0-5 to Poland's Aneta Rygielska.

KSCA Secretary's XI posts easy win

CRICKET

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

KSCA Secretary's XI completed a fine 10-wicket victory over Gujarat on the final day of their KSCA Dr. (Capt.) K. Thimmappiah Memorial Cricket Tournament encounter at the Kini Sports Arena here on Sunday.

Gujarat, starting from 195 for seven in its second innings, added 45 runs to its overnight total to set the hosts a paltry five-run target. Secretary's XI took no more than eight balls to romp home.

Match tied
Elsewhere, at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the contest between Goa and reigning Ranji Trophy champion Vidarbha ended in a pulsating tie.

Chasing 244 for victory, Vidarbha was 141 for no loss at one stage, only for the pursuit to go awry. Mohit Redkar and Darshan Mishal scalped nine wickets between them, with the former having last man Arya Durugkar caught behind by 'keeper Samar Dubashi.

Mohit Redkar. FILE PHOTO

But play was a non-starter at four other grounds in Bengaluru because of overnight rain, with the three playing fields in Alur and the Indian Air Force Ground deemed unfit.

The second round of fixtures start from Tuesday.

The scores: Assam 206 in 49.2 overs & 103/4 in 28.4 overs drew with Mumbai 407 in 99.1 overs.
KSCA Secretary's XI 373 in 149.4 overs & seven for no loss in 1.2 overs bt Gujarat 138 in 39.2 overs (M. Venkatesh 5/53) & 240 in 69.2 overs (Abhishek Desai 47, Umang Kumar 73, P. Dhruv 4/65).
Goa 211 in 62.2 overs & 240 in 76.3 overs tied with Vidarbha 208 in 61.2 overs & 243 in 67 overs (Atharva Taide 62, Aman Mokhade 95, Mohit Redkar 5/89, Darshan Mishal 4/71).
KSCA President's XI 250 in 91.5 overs drew with Maharashtra 303/5 in 83 overs.
Madhya Pradesh 346 in 124.3 overs drew with Tripura 237/5 in 72 overs.
Chhattisgarh 274 in 90.5 overs & 121/3 in 41.2 overs (Ashutosh Singh 42) drew with KSCA XI 240 in 78.3 overs.
In Mysuru: Andhra 257 in 83.5 overs & 350/9 decl. in 107.4 overs (Ashwin Hebbar 70, Revanth Reddy 100 n.o., KSN Raju 87, Ninad Rathwa 4/99, Mahesh Pithiya 5/115) drew with Baroda 424/9 decl. in 152.5 overs & five for no loss on two overs.

Verstappen snaps McLaren's dominance

FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse
MONZA

Max Verstappen won the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday, the reigning World champion slowing McLaren's dominance with a phenomenal display from pole in Monza.

Red Bull's Verstappen held off Lando Norris and championship leader Oscar Piastri after setting the fastest lap in F1 history when taking top spot on the grid on Saturday.

The Dutchman still trails Piastri by 94 points with the Australian finishing third.

Piastri leads the drivers standings by 31 points from Norris, as the top five positions ended up staying as they were on the starting grid of a rapid race.

Sunday's win was just Verstappen's third of a season and a second win in Italy this year, after triumphing in the Emilia Romagna GP back in May, caps a historic weekend for the 27-year-old.

Charles Leclerc couldn't take a podium spot for the massed ranks of Ferrari fans in the stands, the Monegasque finishing fourth.

The results: 1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 1h:13m:24.325s, 2. Norris (McLaren) +19.207s, 3. Piastri (McLaren) 21.351, 4. Leclerc (Ferrari) 25.624, 5. Russell (Mercedes) 32.881, 6. Hamilton (Ferrari) 37.449, 7. Albon (Williams) 50.537, 8. Bortoleto (Sauber) 58.484, 9. Antonelli (Mercedes) 59.762, 10. Hadjar (Racing Bulls) 63.891, 11. Sainz (Williams) 64.469, 12. Bearman (Haas) 79.288, 13. Tsunoda (Red Bull) 80.701, 14. Lawson (Racing Bulls) 82.351.
+1 lap: 15. Ocon (Haas), 16. Gasly (Alpine), 17. Colapinto (Alpine), 18. Stroll (Aston Martin); **DNF:** Alonso (Aston Martin), **DNS:** Hulkenberg.
Standings: Drivers: 1. Piastri 324, 2. Norris 293, 3. Verstappen 230, 4. Russell 194, 5. Leclerc 163. **Constructors:** 1. McLaren 617, 2. Ferrari 280, 3. Mercedes 260, 4. Red Bull 239, 5. Williams 86.

THE JOURNEY IN NUMBERS AFTER THE 53-LAP RACE AT MONZA
Lights to flag
7
This was Verstappen's seventh win on Italian soil, his most in a country
1 Verstappen's winning time of 1h13m24.325s made it the shortest full distance race in F1 history
1 Alonso became the first driver to race 1000 laps at Monza
16 Hamilton now has the most top-10 finishes at the Italian GP
27 McLaren's 27 podiums this year, its highest in a single season
34 Piastri now holds the third-longest scoring run in F1
44 The Australian also moved past Verstappen for the second longest finishing streak
75 Monza became the first circuit to host 75 F1 races
82 Albon overtook Riccardo Patrese for third on the drivers' list with the most starts for Williams
Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

LIVE TELECAST

Football: CAFA Nations Cup, India vs Oman, FanCode, 5.30 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.

It's Prokofiev vs. Red Bishop

HYDERABAD: Prokofiev and Red Bishop should fight out the finish of the Y. Shanker Rao Memorial Deccan Colts Championship Stakes, the second classic of the season to be staged here on Monday (Sept. 8) afternoon. There will be no false rails.

1 MEDAK PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), no whip, 12.25 p.m.: 1. Arizona Sun (7) P. Ajeeth K 56, 2. Beast Master (3) P. Sai K 56, 3. Fox Worth (5) Antony Raj 56, 4. Golden Aura (1) H.M. Akshay 56, 5. City Of Moksha (8) Ajay K 54.5, 6. December Dream (6) Mohit 54.5, 7. Kitsune (4) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 8. Nyanza (9) R.N. Darshan 54.5, 9. Rate Of Interest (2) G. Naresh 54.5 and 10. Roxxane (10) Akshay K 54.5.
1. ROXXANE, 2. FOX WORTH, 3. KITSUNE

2 CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only, (Cat. II), 12.55: 1. La Quinta (6) Vivek G 56, 2. Lake Michigan (7) B.R. Kumar 56, 3. Photograph (1) G. Naresh 56, 4. Sharanga (9) Akshay K 56, 5. American Affair (3) H.M. Akshay 54.5, 6. Bestie (2) Md. Ekram 54.5, 7. Live Legend (5) Gaurav 54.5, 8. Special Star (8) Ajay K 54.5 and 9. Tootsie Darling (4) Trevor 54.5.
1. TOOTSIE DARLING, 2. LA QUINTA, 3. SHARANGA

3 HUSSAIN SAGAR CUP (DIV. I) (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.25: 1. Great Giver (5) Kuldeep Jr. 60, 2. Nkalanzinzi (10) Akshay K 58.5, 3. Star Medal (8) Abhay Singh 58.5, 4. Bold Beauty (9) P. Sai K 57, 5. Blue Pantheress (3) P. Ajeeth K 56, 6. See My Attitude (11) Md. Ismail 55.5, 7. Smart Boy (7) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 8. Path Of Peace (2) Surya Prakash 54, 9. Taaliyah (1) Ajay K 54, 10. Alpine Girl (6) Shivansh 53 and 11. Sadiya (4) H.M. Akshay 51.
1. BLUE PANTHERESS, 2. NKALANZINZI, 3. GREAT GIVER

4 HUSSAIN SAGAR CUP (DIV. II) (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.55: 1. Sweet Dancer (11) P. Ajeeth K 60, 2. Role Model (2) Abay Singh 59, 3. Hoping Star (7) Mohit 58, 4. Shah Of Iran (10) R.N. Darshan 57, 5. Take A Breath (1) Mukesh K 56.5, 6. Shubhrak (6) Md. Ismail 56, 7. Divine Destiny (8) Surya Prakash 55, 8. Golden Inzio (3) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5, 9. Silver Arrow (4) P. Sai K 53, 10. Char Ek Char (5) Kuldeep Jr. 52 and 11. Politics (9) G. Naresh 52.
1. TAKE A BREATH, 2. SWEET DANCER, 3. POLITICS

5 MONSOON CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.30: 1. Pontefract (3) Likith Appu 61, 2. Bholi Punjaban (1) Deepak 60, 3. Walking Thunder (6) Trevor 58, 4. Miss Smiley Angel (8) Mukesh K 57.5, 5. Petaluma (10) Vivek G 55, 6. Krystallos (7) Ashad Asbar 54, 7. Only My Way (5) A.A. Vikrant 54, 8. Crimson Rose (4) B. Nikhil 53, 9. Colt Pistol (9) Sonu K 51 and 10. Lazarus (2) Uday Kiran 50.
1. WALKING THUNDER, 2. MISS SMILEY ANGEL, 3. PONTEFRACT

6 A. KRISHNASWAMY MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.05: 1. Runlikethewind (11) Likith Appu 61, 2. Star Forever (7) Ajay K 61, 3. Glorious Power (2) Md. Ekram 56, 4. Pacific Heights (5) Akshay K 55, 5. Arion One (8) B.R. Kumar 53.5, 6. Hurricane Wave (4) A.A. Vikrant 52.5, 7. Winning Attitude (3) Afroz K 52, 8. Ayushman (1) Kuldeep Sr. 51.5, 9. Catchme If You Can (9) B. Nikhil 51, 10. Only The Brave (6) H.M. Akshay 51 and 11. Juramento (10) Surya Prakash 50.
1. STAR FOREVER, 2. AYUSHMAN, 3. PACIFIC HEIGHTS

7 Y. SHANKER RAO MEMORIAL DECCAN COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (Gr. 3) (1,600m) Terms, 3-y-o only, 3.40: 1. Corte Madera (6) Vivek G 56, 2. Knight Regent (8) Ashad Asbar 56, 3. Matisse (9) Pranil 56, 4. Mindful (5) Yash Narredu 56, 5. Prokofiev (7) Antony Raj 56, 6. Racing Ruler (4) P. Sai K 56, 7. Red Bishop (3) Trevor 56, 8. Sicyon (1) Akshay K 56 and 9. Zafferano (2) Sandesh 56.
1. PROKOFIEV, 2. RED BISHOP, 3. ZAFFERANO

8 CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 80 and above, (Cat. I), 4.15: 1. Akido (3) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Nonpariel (10) Mukesh K 60, 3. Hugh Capet (5) Sandesh 59.5, 4. D Minchu (7) P. Ajeeth K 59, 5. Last Wish (4) Ashad Asbar 59, 6. N R I Superpower (9) H.M. Akshay 59, 7. Shadow Of The Moon (6) Afroz K 58, 8. Ode To Nature (1) Mohit 57.5, 9. Livermore (8) Akshay K 56, 10. Silver Act (–) and 11. Brooklyn Beauty (2) B. Nikhil 50.
1. NONPARIEL, 2. D MINCHU, 3. LAST WISH

9 MAKALU PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), no whip, 4.50: 1. Ilene (2) Deepak 60, 2. Always Special (9) Kuldeep Jr. 59.5, 3. Mirzeta (7) Rafique Sk. 59.5, 4. Noorian (4) Sonu 59.5, 5. Bien Pensant (5) Surya Prakash 58.5, 6. Country's Maximus (10) G. Naresh 58.5, 7. Club Queen (1) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 8. Iconic Star (3) Md. Ismail 56.5, 9. Jim (6) Shivansh 56.5, 10. Grey Sky (8) Md. Ekram 54.5 and 11. Niloufer The Great (11) H.M. Akshay 54.
1. NOORIAN, 2. BIEN PENSANT, 3. ALWAYS SPECIAL
Day's Best: **NONPARIEL**
Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.
Mini Jackpot : (i) 3, 4, 5 & 6, (ii) 6, 7, 8 & 9.
Treble : (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 4, 5 & 6, (iii) 7, 8 & 9.
Tanala: All races.